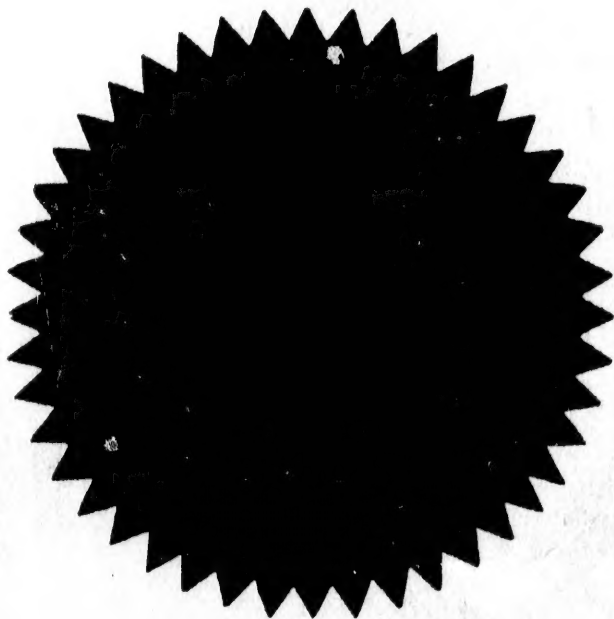


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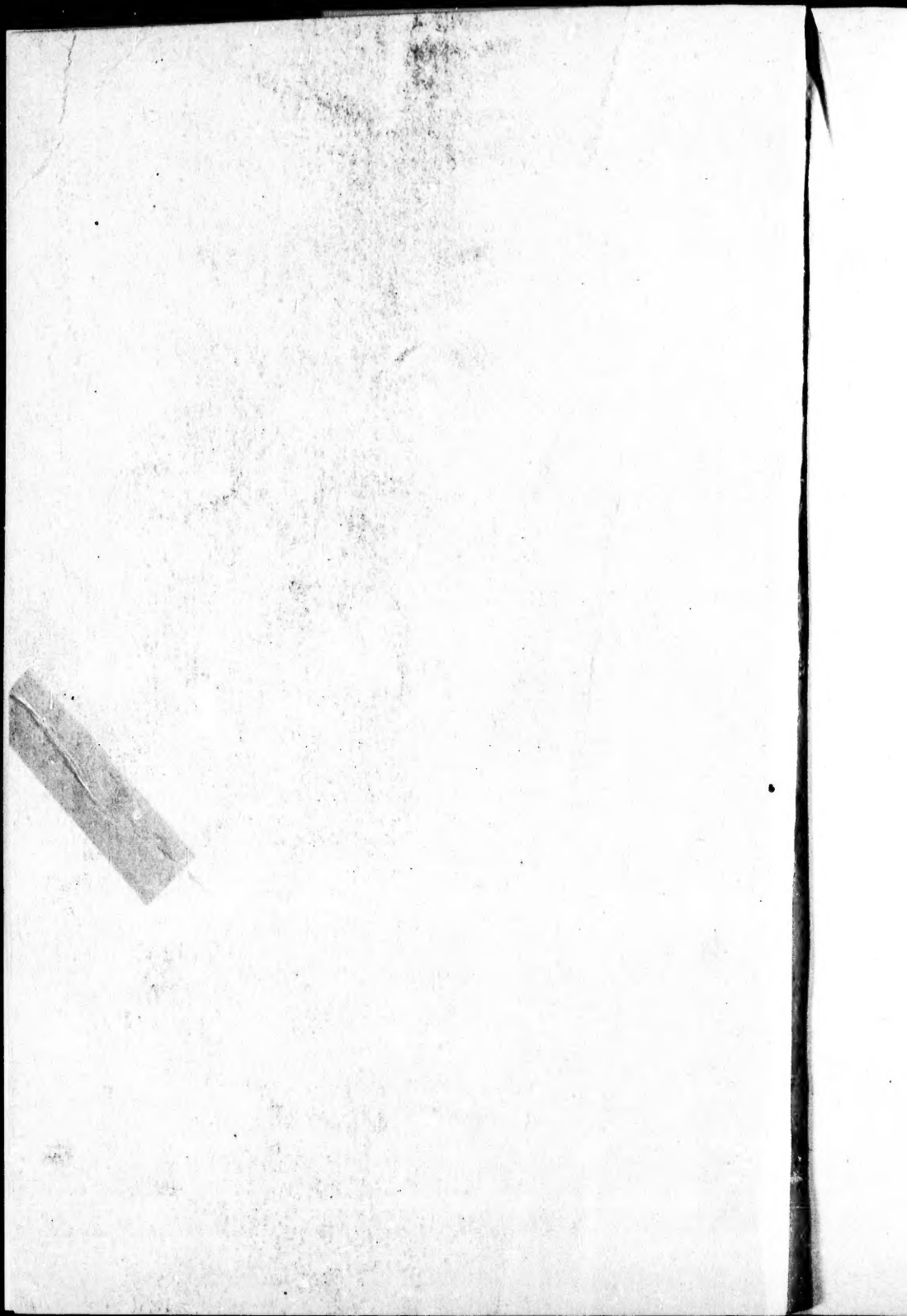
PROCEEDINGS

OF



TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL

1900



PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

—OF—

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

HELD IN NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE, 1900,

—AND THE—

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

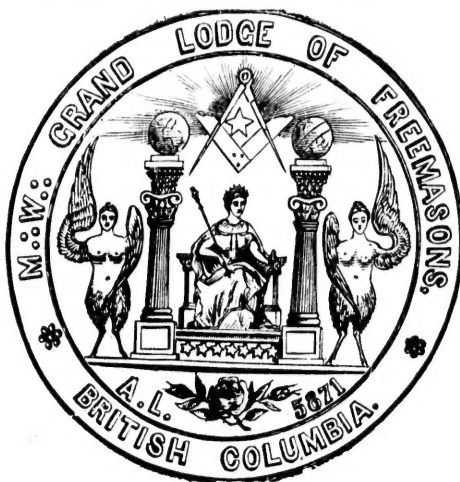
HELD IN VANCOUVER, B. C., COMMENCING ON THURSDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF
JUNE, 1900, A. L. 5900.

VICTORIA, B. C.
The Colonist Printing and Publishing Company.
1900.

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GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I, WALTER J. QUINLAN, Grand Secretary of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, Dominion of Canada, do hereby certify that the following pages contain a true and faithful transcript of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at the Special Communication held in the City of New Westminster, on June 20th, 1900, for the purpose of dedicating and consecrating the Masonic Temple, New Westminster; and at the 29th Annual Communication commenced in the City of Vancouver, on Thursday, June 21st, 1900, and terminated on Saturday, June 23rd, 1900, and of returns of Subordinate Lodges, together with other matters authorized to be published.



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto appended my official signature, and have affixed the Seal of the Grand Lodge of the Province of British Columbia, at the office of the Grand Secretary, in the Masonic Temple, City of Victoria, this 28th day of June, in the year of light, five thousand nine hundred.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secy

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

—OF THE—

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.

Held at the City of New Westminster, Wednesday, 20th June, 1900.

PRESENT.

M. W. Bro.	R. Eden Walker.....	Grand Master
R. W.	" H. H. Watson.....	Dep. Grand Master
"	" Fred McB. Young.....	Senior Grand Warden
W.	" W. A. De Wolf Smith.....	Junior Grand Warden
V. W.	" Rev. John Irwin.....	Acting Grand Chaplain
"	" W. J. Quinlan.....	Grand Secretary
W.	" F. M. Cowperthwaite.....	Senior Grand Deacon
"	" W. E. Vanstone.....	Junior Grand Deacon
R. W.	" R. B. Kelly.....	Acting Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.	" J. B. Johnson.....	Acting Grand Supt. of Works
"	" T. J. Armstrong.....	Acting Grand Marshal
"	" L. A. Lewis.....	Acting Grand Standard Bearer
"	" E. C. Arthur.....	Acting Grand Sword Bearer
"	" E. Chapman.....	Acting Grand Organist
"	" G. W. Boggs.....	Acting Grand Pursuivant
	Bro. E. Hosker.....	Grand Tyler

And numerous brethren from New Westminster, Vancouver, Chilliwack, and a large number of visitors as shewn on "Porch Book."

The Grand Lodge was opened in "Ample Form" at 3.10 p. m.

The Grand Secretary read the "Summons" by virtue of which the Special Communication was held.

The M. W. Grand Master briefly referred to the object of the Special, and the historical import of the ceremony of dedication, as well as a history of Masonry in the City of New Westminster.

The Worshipful Master (W. Bro. Geo. Brine), on behalf of Union Lodge, No. 9, presented a request that the M. W. Grand Master and his officers dedicate and consecrate their new Temple.

The request being acceded to, the Architect made report on his duties, and returned to the Grand Master his implements of office.

The ceremony of dedication and consecration was then proceeded with according to ancient custom.

The M. W. Grand Master expressed his pleasure and that of Grand Lodge upon the beautiful temple which had been erected, and complimented the brethren of Union Lodge for the zeal displayed.

Grand Lodge was closed in "Ample Form" after benediction by the V. W. Grand Chaplain, and so proclaimed.

W. J. Quindan
Grand Secy.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

—OF THE—

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, was opened in "Ample Form" in the Masonic Temple, in the City of Vancouver, on Thursday, the 21st day of June, 1900, A. L. 5900, at the hour of 2.30 o'clock p.m.

ROLL CALL.

Upon calling the roll the following were found present :

GRAND OFFICERS.

R. Eden Walker	Grand Master
Harry H. Watson	Deputy Grand Master
Fred. McB. Young	Senior Grand Warden
A. S. Goodeve	Junior Grand Warden
Rev. E. P. Flewelling	Grand Chaplain
A. B. Erskine	Grand Treasurer
F. M. Cowperthwaite	Senior Grand Deacon
W. E. Vanstone	Junior Grand Deacon
H. Byers	Grand Supt. of Works
C. Ensor Sharp	Grand Director of Ceremonies

Frederick Buscombe	Grand Marshal
Geo. Johnstone	Grand Sword Bearer
Geo. Middleton	Grand Organist
Thos. Jones	}.....Grand Stewards
Jno. S. Clute, Jr.	
Geo. Brine	
E. Hosker.....	Grand Tyler

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Geo. Glover.....	D. D. G. M., No. 1 District
Chas. Nelson.....	" " 2 "
Robt. F. Green.....	" " 6 "

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M. W. Bro. William Downie.....	Past Grand Master
" " Lacey R. Johnson.....	" " "
" " E. D. McLaren.....	" " "
" " David Wilson.....	" " "
R. W. Bro. A. E. Lees.....	Past Junior Grand Warden

Grand Representatives from the following sister Grand Lodges :

Carolina, South,	Louisiana,	Minnesota,	New York,
Connecticut,	Maine,	New Brunswick,	Tasmania,
Indiana,	Michigan,	New Mexico,	Tennessee,
	Wisconsin.		

DELEGATES AND MEMBERS BY LODGES.

VANCOUVER, B. C., 21st JUNE, 1900.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee appointed on Credentials beg to report :

That on inspecting the list of proxies and the Porch Book of the Grand Lodge, we find the following brethren entitled to vote in Grand Lodge as representatives of the Lodges as under :

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, NO. 1 :

J. W. Crocker	Senior Warden
P. J. Riddell	Junior Warden
B. C. Oddy and W. J. Quinlan.....	Past Masters

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, NO. 2 :

F. V. Robertson	Worshipful Master
A. Maxwell Muir	Senior Warden
E. B. Paul	Junior Warden
A. B. Erskine, Geo. Glover, A. Maxwell Muir, D. Wilson.....	Past Masters

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3:

T. W. Jones.....	Worshipful Master
William Lewis.....	Senior Warden
Geo. Thomson.....	Junior Warden
Geo. Thomson and W. K. Leighton.....	Past Masters

CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4:

Wm. Manson.....	Senior Warden
W. A. De Wolf Smith.....	Junior Warden

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7:

W. J. Bowser.....	Worshipful Master
H. A. Bell.....	Senior Warden
J. L. Brown.....	Junior Warden
F. M. Cowperthwaite, S. N. Jarrett, Chas. Nelson, W. Hogg, Talbot Ward, A. E. Lees, P. McNaughton, G. Thomas,	Past Masters.

UNION LODGE, No. 9:

R. Eden Walker.....	Worshipful Master
H. N. Rich.....	Senior Warden
J. B. Johnston, W. A. De Wolf Smith, W. Manson, H. N. Rich, R. Eden Walker,	Past Masters.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10:

Chas. S. Stevens.....	Worshipful Master
W. O. Miller.....	Senior Warden
Geo. L. Mallory.....	Junior Warden
E. P. Flewelling, S. J. Tunstall, George Middleton.....	Past Masters

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11:

C. E. Tisdall.....	Worshipful Master
D. Wilson.....	Senior Warden

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12:

F. M. Hartley.....	Worshipful Master
Chas. Wilson.....	Senior Warden
H. H. Watson.....	Junior Warden
T. E. Atkins, W. Downie, C. H. Gatewood, G. H. Hutchinson, E. C. Kilby, J. E. Miller, W. O. Miller, J. R. Seymour, C. E. Tisdall, E. D. McLaren, Stewart Livingstone, Fred. Buscombe, L. R. Johnson, H. H. Watson,	Past Masters.

SPALLUMCHEEN LODGE, No. 13:

Not represented.

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14:

Thomas Williams.....	Senior Warden
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KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15:

L. R. Johnson Worshipful Master
F. Buscombe Senior Warden

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16:

J. A. Catherwood Worshipful Master
J. A. Catherwood Junior Warden

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17:

T. J. Armstrong Worshipful Master
C. C. Fisher Senior Warden
G. W. Boggs Junior Warden
T. J. Armstrong, George Cunningham, G. W. Boggs, L. A. Lewis, W. E. Vanstone, Past Masters.

DORIC LODGE, No. 18:

D. G. Alexander Worshipful Master
Robert Curry Senior Warden
Robert Curry Junior Warden
F. C. Meakin, F. McB. Young Past Masters

IONIC LODGE, No. 19:

W. A. Rose Worshipful Master
J. Pelly Senior Warden
C. B. Reeves Junior Warden
A. M. Nelson, L. W. Paisley, C. B. Reeves Past Masters

MIRIAM LODGE, No. 20:

W. J. Quinlan Worshipful Master
A. S. Goodeve Senior Warden
H. J. Raymer Junior Warden

ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 21:

Robert Gear Worshipful Master
Robert Gear Senior Warden
T. J. Jones Junior Warden

ACACIA LODGE, No. 22:

D. McKinnon Worshipful Master
V. Hicks Senior Warden
P. S. Hamilton Junior Warden
F. Bowser, W. D. Brydone-Jack Past Masters

NELSON LODGE, No. 23:

Geo. Johnstone Worshipful Master
Fred. Irvine Senior Warden
Harry Connon Junior Warden
E. C. Arthur, Frank Fletcher, Geo. Johnstone Past Masters

UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24:

T. E. N. Woodgate.....	Worshipful Master
F. J. Bailey.....	Senior Warden
R. F. Bainbridge.....	Junior Warden
C. Ensor Sharp.....	Past Master

KASLO LODGE, No. 25:

<i>E. E. Chipman</i>	Worshipful Master
<i>Hamilton Byers</i>	Senior Warden
<i>R. F. Green</i>	Junior Warden
E. E. Chipman, Hamilton Byers, R. F. Green.....	Past Masters

CUMBERLAND LODGE, No. 26:

Thos. Irwin.....	Worshipful Master
<i>Thos. Irwin</i>	Senior Warden

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 27:

Geo. Herring.....	Worshipful Master
J. S. Clute, Jr.....	Senior Warden
<i>Geo. Herring</i>	Junior Warden
A. S. Goodeve, H. J. Raymer.....	Past Masters

GREENWOOD LODGE, No. 28:

<i>W. J. Bowser</i>	Worshipful Master
<i>H. A. Bell</i>	Senior Warden
<i>J. L. Brown</i>	Junior Warden

ALTA LODGE, No. 29:

W. H. Lilly.....	Worshipful Master
M. L. Grimmett.....	Senior Warden
H. H. Pitts.....	Junior Warden
J. M. Bernard.....	Past Master

NORTH STAR LODGE, No. 30:

C. A. Procnier.....	Worshipful Master
H. H. McVittie.....	Senior Warden

NOTE—Proxies are entered in italic.

Your Committee respectfully suggest the advisability of greater care being taken by brethren in signing the Porch Book under the proper Lodge headings, thus greatly facilitating the work of the Committee.

We regret to state that neither proxies nor representatives are present from Spallumcheen Lodge, No. 13.

Fraternally submitted,

WM. MANSON, F. BOWSER, A. MAKWELL MUIR,	} Committee.
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The M. W. Grand Master appointed the following brethren
 "pro tempore," acting for absentees.

W. Bro. E. C. Arthur as.....Grand Standard Bearer
 " " Thos. E. Woodgate as.....Grand Pursuivant
 " C. C. Fisher as.....Grand Steward

The M. W. Grand Master tendered an invitation to all
 Master Masons, duly vouched for, to seats in Grand Lodge
 during the Communication.

The visitors being admitted, M. W. Bro. Wm. Downie, and
 W. Bros. S. N. Jarrett and Brydone-Jack, were appointed a
 committee to introduce the Masters of Vancouver City Lodges,
 (W. Bros. W. J. Bowser, F. W. Hartley and D. McKinnon),
 who, on behalf of Lodges Nos. 7, 12 and 22, read an address of
 welcome to Grand Lodge expressive of their thanks for the
 honor of having the Annual Communication held in the City of
 Vancouver.

The M. W. Grand Master, on behalf of Grand Lodge, ex-
 pressed the pleasure Grand Lodge experienced in meeting in
 such suitable and beautiful quarters.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed the following brethren
 as the Committee on Credentials :

W. Bros. Wm. Manson, A. Maxwell Muir and F. Bowser.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the Special Com-
 munication held at the City of New Westminster on 20th June,
 1900, when it was

Resolved—That the minutes, just read, be adopted, and that
 the Journal of Proceedings of the Twenty-eighth Annual Com-
 munication be taken as read, and adopted as printed.

The Grand Master appointed the following brethren in lieu
 of absentees on the Standing Committees :

Jurisprudence..... W. Bros. Geo. Cunningham and S. N. Jarrett
 Grievances..... W. Bros. E. E. Chipman and Oddy
 Charity..... W. Bros. Raymer, W. O. Miller and C. E. Sharp
 Constitution W. Bro. W. J. Bowser

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia, 1900:

Brethren of Grand Lodge:—

On this, the Twenty-ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, I extend to you a cordial welcome and hearty greeting. It is not only meet and proper but it is to me a most agreeable duty to welcome you all most heartily, as the representative of the Subordinate Lodges at this Grand Annual Communication, met to confer together for the best interests of Masonry throughout this Grand Jurisdiction; and in thus welcoming you I ask your advice, counsel and co-operation in all things tending to promote the Peace, Harmony and good of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and the world at large.

It is with me, as I trust it is with you, a true source of pleasure to meet at our annual re-unions not only the tried and faithful members of our order who year after year strive by their acts and advice to promote the genuine tenets of our institution, and who by their wise and mature counsel have helped to make this Grand Lodge the object of our admiration, loyalty and love; but also to meet the younger brethren, some of whom perhaps are present for the first time to participate and assist us in our deliberations, and to whose hands must soon be entrusted the control and guidance of the affairs of our Order, with all its responsibilities and cares. May the Great Architect of the Universe, whose all-seeing Eye is ever watching us, guide and direct our proceedings.

FRATERNAL DEAD.

At the conclusion of each Masonic year it becomes our mournful duty to chronicle the names of those brethren who have passed from our midst and have gone to join the Celestial Lodge on High. I grieve to say that the number who have thus departed in the past year is large, and embraces the names of several old and tried brethren, whose faces were ever welcome and familiar at our Annual Communications, besides many of humbler rank. The following Past Grand Lodge officers deserve especial reference: We were called upon on November 30th, 1899, to mourn the loss of one of our Past Grand Masters, Most W. Bro. Fred Williams, who was one of the pioneer Masons that helped to form this Grand Lodge. Bro. Williams was initiated into Masonry under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California, A. D. 1853. He joined Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, Baglis's Registry, before our Grand Lodge was formed. He was twice Master, viz.: in 1873 and 1874. In the Grand Lodge he held the position of Grand Steward in 1872. D. G. M. in 1874 and 1875, and Grand Master in 1876 and 1877. Bro. Williams was an old and enthusiastic member of Royal Arch Masonry, and was a Past First Principal of Columbia R. A. Chapter. He was also the representative of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana near this Grand Lodge.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER H. M'DERMOTT.

Masonry in No. 4 District has lost an old and valuable member in the person of the D. D. G. M.

R. W. Bro. McDermott was initiated into Masonry in Cariboo Lodge, No. 4, on February 11th, 1875, passed to the Fellow Craft Degree March 6th, and received the Master Mason Degree April 3rd. He was elected W. Master of his Lodge in 1880, and had acted as Secretary for the past eight years. He held the position of D. D. G. M. for the years 1888-89-90, and from 1894 to the time of his death.

WORSHIPFUL BROTHER JOHN BUIE.

Early in the Masonic year we were called upon to mourn the loss of W. Bro. Buie, who departed this life on July 19th, 1899, after a lingering illness, borne with great fortitude.

In W. Bro. Buie, Masonry lost one of its most faithful adherents; full of Masonic lore, he was ever as ready to impart instruction as others might be ready to receive it.

He was buried with Masonic honors, as befitted his rank. He was first brought to Masonic Light in Mount Hermon Lodge, when located in Moodyville.

Bro. Buie's Masonic career has been an active one, as the list of offices he held shows: He was elected a member of Union Lodge, No. 9, May 2nd, 1881; Senior Warden, 1882, and W. Master in 1884, and again in 1889. He held at different times various important positions in Grand Lodge, being Grand Sup. of Works in 1884; Grand Sword Bearer, 1888; Grand Director of Ceremonies, 1889; D. D. G. M. of No. 2 District, 1890, and a member of the Charity Committee in 1893-94 and 95. In 1897 he was appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Minnesota as Grand Representative of that Grand Lodge near our own.

VERY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER B. DOUGLAS.

On February 25th Union Lodge was called upon to mourn the loss of another of its veteran members in the person of Bro. Benjamin Douglas, who for many years held the position of Treasurer of that Lodge. Bro. Douglas was initiated into Masonry on December 8th, 1870, in Union Lodge; was passed February 24th, 1871, and received the Master Mason degree on March 9th, 1871. From 1875 to 1892 he acted as Treasurer of the Lodge, and upon his retiring from office was elected an honorary member as a slight token of appreciation. He also acted as Trustee for the Lodge property from 1887 to 1892. In June 1888 he was given the rank of Past Grand Treasurer by Grand Lodge, in consideration of his services, and in 1889 he was a member of the Committee on Constitution. Bro. Douglas was also at the time of his death a member of Vancouver Lodge of Perfection A. & A.S.R.

W. BROTHER COLIN C. M'KENZIE.

Ashlar Lodge, No. 3, was called upon to mourn the loss of its veteran Secretary, W. Bro. Colin C. McKenzie, who had acted as

Secretary of that Lodge for fourteen consecutive years. I was unable to learn when W. Bro. McKenzie was first brought to see Masonic Light. He was, however, a M.M. in good standing, and a member of British Columbia Lodge, No. 5, Victoria, at the date of the foundation of our Grand Lodge in 1871. He acted as Secretary of No. 5 Lodge from 1877 to 1882, was elected J. W., 1882; S. W., 1883, and W.M. in 1884. In 1885 he affiliated with Ashlar Lodge, and was elected Secretary, which position he held till the time of his death.

Although he never held any official position in Grand Lodge, he was a frequent attendant at our Annual Communications. He was a man of very considerable attainments, being an M.A. of Cambridge University, and at one time Superintendent of Education for this Province.

FRATERNAL DEAD (FOREIGN).

While we have been called upon to mourn the loss of so many distinguished brethren of our Jurisdiction, let us not forget that Masonry is not bounded by the narrow confines of provinces or countries, and that others have been called upon to mourn the death of brothers equally dear to them and equally distinguished in their respective Grand Lodges. Let us extend to them, as we know they do to us, our heart-felt sympathy. I append the list of distinguished dead of foreign Jurisdictions so far as known at present. Few of them are known personally to us, but their Masonic rank is a guarantee that they were loved and esteemed in their respective Grand Lodges

Arkansas.—M.W. Bro. John J. Sumpter, Grand Master, 1884.

Connecticut.—M.W. Bro. Dwight Phelps, Grand Master, 1878; M.W. Bro. J. H. Welsh, Grand Master, 1896; M.W. Bro. Clark Buckingham, Grand Master, 1890.

Colorado.—Bro. Thomas Linton, Grand Tyler, 1873-1900.

Illinois.—M.W. Bro. Harrison Dills, Grand Master, 1857-1858.

Michigan.—M.W. Bro. John S. Cross, Grand Master, 1890.

Minnesota.—M.W. Bro. Alphonso Barto, Grand Master, 1891-1892.

Montana.—R.W. Bro. Henry Chapple, D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge this present year.

Nebraska.—R.W. Bro. William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary from 1872 to time of death.

Nova Scotia.—R.W. Bro. Edmund T. Mahon, Grand Lecturer, 1892; S.G.W. in 1893, D.G.M. in 1897; died March 8th, 1900.

Oregon.—M.W. Bro. Robert Clow, Grand Master, 1877 and 1878; M. W. Bro. T. G. Reames, Grand Master, 1885.

West Virginia.—M.W. Bro. Alec. M. Evans, Past Grand Master.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Our relations with foreign Grand Lodges continue to be of the most pleasant character, and no contentions have arisen during the year in any way to mar the universal harmony.

I received an invitation from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia, to be present at the ceremonies commemorating the 100th

anniversary of the death of a distinguished member of the Craft, W. Bro. George Washington. Various circumstances prevented my accepting this invitation, but I wrote the M.W. Grand Master of Virginia, conveying to him my appreciation of the courtesy extended, and assuring him that as Masons all difference of race and nationality vanished, and we joined with him in honoring the memory of the deceased brother for his inherent virtues as a man and a worthy Mason.

It afforded me much pleasure, in response to an invitation from M.W. Bro. Elsperman, of International City Lodge, No. 79, Blaine, Washington, to be present at the services held by that Lodge on December 14th, 1899, in commemoration of the event just referred to. I was accompanied on that occasion by the D.G.M., R. W. Bro. H. H. Watson, and a number of the Brethren from New Westminster and Vancouver. The services as conducted by the Brethren of International Lodge, were peculiarly interesting and appropriate.

NEGRO MASONRY, ETC.

This question, re-introduced into Masonic life by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, in 1898, still continues to occupy a very prominent place in the several Grand Lodge proceedings. The Grand Lodge of Washington, at its Annual Communication in 1899, reconsidered its former report and adopted another, in which, while adhering to its original position, that "Masonry is universal and without doubt neither race nor color is among the tests proper to be applied to determine the fitness of a candidate for the degrees of Masonry"; it considerably modified its original resolution regarding the degrees of recognition which should be accorded to members of the so-called "African Lodges" of the United States. The question is one which interests us in British Columbia in theory rather than in practice, but I cannot help feeling that the "color line" has so far warped the better judgment of members of the Fraternity in some of the Grand Jurisdictions of the neighboring Republic as to make them unable, under any circumstances or condition, to view any man of African descent as a "Brother."

I received a communication, dated February 12th, 1900, from M.W. Bro. J. C. Remington, Grand Master of Masons in New South Wales, enclosing a copy of the proceedings of a special communication of that Grand Lodge held for the purpose of discussing the question of granting recognition to the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, which had been founded October 11th, 1899. Recognition was granted.

From the information supplied me, I believe the decision arrived at was correct, while no application has so far been received by this Grand Lodge from the newly founded Grand Lodge of Western Australia, I hope that when such application does reach us it will be favorably considered.

On April 2nd I received a communication from the Grand Secretary saying that it had been reported to him that a resident of Rossland after an absence of two months in Ontario, returned to that place

and stated that he had received the E. A. Degree while away, and, further, the Lodge which conferred the degree wrote to Corinthian Lodge requesting it to confer the F.C. & M.M. Degrees on the applicant. W. Bro. Herring, W. Master of Corinthian Lodge, very properly reported the matter to the Grand Secretary, who reported to me. I at once wrote and instructed Corinthian Lodge not to recognize this man as a Mason, and not to confer the degrees as requested, and I also asked that full particulars as to name of Lodge, date of conferring degree, etc, be reported to me. This information was forwarded to the Grand Secretary by the W.M. of Corinthian Lodge on April 21st, last, but for some reason was not sent on to me until June 7th, when in reply to a letter to the Grand Secretary asking the cause of delay, I was placed in possession of the necessary information. The offending Lodge is St. George's, No. 367, G.R.C., and I at once wrote to the M.W.G. Master of Canada, laying the whole matter before him, and doubtless will receive a reply in due course, which, when received, I shall place in the hands of my successor in office. The offence involves a serious breach of Masonic usage, and I consider that it is a matter of regret that the necessary information regarding the details should have been so long in the hands of the Grand Secretary before being forwarded to me.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year I have recommended the following Brethren as the representatives of Sister Grand Lodges near this Grand Lodge:

July 4th.—W. Bro. T. J. Armstrong, of New Westminster, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

August 10th.—W. Bro. C. E. Tisdall, of Vancouver, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

December 2nd.—R.W. Bro. H. H. Watson, of Vancouver, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

December 10th.—W. Bro. H. N. Rich, of Ladner's Landing, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

December 29th.—W. Bro. Thomas Downie, of Revelstoke, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Washington. (Re-appointed.)

On December 29, at the request of the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction, I issued a commission to M.W. Bro. James Hayden, of Seattle, as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Washington.

I am of the opinion that the system of interchanging representatives with foreign Grand Lodges is a good one, and should be productive of good results; in practice, however, the repeated absence of Grand Representatives from Grand Lodge meetings, to a large extent, defeats the object aimed at. How this may be remedied is a difficult problem to solve.

The system introduced by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia whereby a representative who absents himself from three successive annual Communications forfeits his commission, is not to my mind altogether a satisfactory method. Just how this removal can be affected presents some difficulty. The Grand Representatives of other Grand

Lodges near this Grand Lodge are not the officers of, nor do they receive their appointments from this Grand Lodge, but from the Grand Body which they represent, although their appointment may have been made on the recommendation of the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction. Power to remove from office lies exclusively with the Grand Master of the Jurisdiction they represent. Possibly if Grand Representatives were clothed with larger powers and higher responsibilities, it might instil more interest, and secure a more regular attendance; at present the duties are so purely honorary that their very lightness promotes indifference.

PROSPERITY OF THE CRAFT.

The past year has been one of universal prosperity in the Craft, and our fraternity has increased both in numbers and usefulness. Peace and harmony have prevailed everywhere, and no disturbing elements have been introduced to mar the spirit of brotherly love, which should and does prevail throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

THE WAR.

While we cannot but view with satisfaction the picture of peace which prevail at home, our minds most involuntarily turn with feelings of heartfelt sympathy to our brethren and fellow-citizens in far-distant South Africa, where this great Empire, to which we all feel so proud to belong, has been waging war in the interests of Liberty and Truth while we as Masons, advocating, as we do, the noble tenet of a universal brotherhood, irrespective of creed or nationality, can take no part in party strifes, we may and should lift up our voices and assist by word and deed any movement whose object is the relief of the distressed and the advancement of liberty and enlightenment, where oppression and darkness reign. To our worthy distressed brethren in South Africa we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and we trust that their trials and sufferings may be brought to a speedy and happy termination. I trust that this Grand Lodge will show its appreciation of the noble acts and brave deeds of the soldiers of our Dominion who have so gallantly fought for the Empire, by voting a substantial sum in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

When you did me the honor to elect me Grand Master, I hoped to have been able to pay almost every Lodge an official visit. I commenced the Masonic year with that intention, but an unforeseen alteration in my professional arrangements made it extremely difficult for me to leave home for any length of time, and consequently I have been unable to visit any of the up-country lodges. I should like to assure the brethren of these lodges that it has not been from any discourtesy to them that these visits have not been paid, and that my disappointment at not being able to visit them has been quite as great as theirs can possibly have been at not receiving any visits. To those who may succeed me in this high office let me give a word of counsel. The duties appertaining to the office of Grand Master of any Masonic

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Grand Jurisdiction are by no means trivial or few, and he who would faithfully and successfully discharge them, must be prepared to devote considerable time to their performance. The Grand Jurisdiction of British Columbia is no exception to the general rule, for while the lodges may be comparatively few in number, their geographical situation is such as to make it a matter of considerable time to visit and thoroughly inspect and supervise their work. Such a system of systematic and efficient supervision is especially necessary in a young and rapidly growing jurisdiction, and much of the responsibility of carrying it out efficiently, rests upon the shoulders of the Grand Master, and to a less extent upon the D.D.G.M.'s. The necessity of regular and frequent visits is obvious, not only to the old and tried lodges, but to the young and struggling ones; and let not their visits be a matter of form, visits, whereat words of praise (perhaps not deserved) are spoken, but let a wise and honest effort be made to learn the necessities and shortcomings of the lodge, and by judicious counsel show the brethren wherein lies their weakness, and by true Masonic precepts point out the right path for them to tread. That this, if carried out properly, must involve a considerable expenditure of time and money, I am well aware; perhaps more than the average Mason can well afford, and as this may, and I believe often does, lead to a curtailment of the necessary visits of inspection, I am of the opinion that the interests of Masonry would be better served if the G.M. and the D.D.G.M.'s received some compensation for their services, say, at least travelling expenses. I would ask the Grand Lodge to seriously consider this matter.

While on the subject of D.D.G.M.'s, I would like to call the attention of the Grand Lodge to the large number of lodges in, and the great extent of territory embraced by District No. 6. The majority of new lodges either recently chartered, or now under dispensation, are within this district, and as a consequence, the work devolving on the D.D. is proportionally heavy. A division of the district is imperatively necessary in the immediate future.

On October 9th, I set out on a series of visits to the lodges of No. 5 District, that had been arranged for me by R.W. Bro. Stewart, D.D.G.M., and to his indefatigable energy in Masonic work is due to a large extent the efficient condition in which I found the lodges in that district. On these occasions I was accompanied by R.W. Bro. Watson, D.G.M.; R.W. Bro. William Stewart, D.D.G.M., No. 5 District; R.W. Bro. Young, S.G.W.

On October 9th, I visited Ashlar Lodge, No. 3. This lodge has been unfortunate in losing its W. Master, Bro. Bosanquet, who was obliged to leave for England before the expiration of his term of office. Bro. Bosanquet did much to advance Masonry during his residence in B.C., and his departure will be a real loss. The chair was occupied by W. Bro. Brown, P.M., who, with the assistance of the officers, conferred the M.M. degree on a candidate in a most creditable manner.

On October 10th, I visited St. John's Lodge, No. 21, Wellington. The M.M. degree was conferred on a candidate by the W.M., Bro. Stevenson, and the officers of the lodge. This was the occasion of my

first visit to St. John's Lodge, and I was much struck with the work done. The use of paraphernalia certainly adds novelty to the ceremony, and while I can say nothing but praise for the excellency of the work, I must confess that, personally, I prefer a simpler form of ritual.

On October 11th, I visited Cumberland Lodge, No. 23, Union. W. Bro. Mounce conferred the M.M. degree on a candidate in a fairly creditable manner. The work could be improved by devoting more time to practice in the ritual.

On October 12th, I visited Hiram Lodge, No. 14, Comox. The chair was occupied by W. Bro. Millard, W.M., who exemplified the M.M. degree in a fairly creditable manner. The brethren of this lodge have a comfortable lodge-room, and considering the distance members have to come to attend meetings, the attendance was good.

On October 13th, I visited Doric Lodge, No. 18, Nanaimo. The W.M., Bro. Alexander, and the officers conferred the E.A. degree on a candidate in a really first-class manner. I am pleased to see that Doric Lodge has taken the advice given them on a previous occasion in a true Masonic spirit, and have proved that they are composed of material second to none in the Jurisdiction. I wish them every success in the future. After the lodge was closed I was entertained at a most enjoyable banquet at the Wilson Hotel, by the members of the lodge. On my visits to Cumberland and Doric Lodges, I had the pleasure of the company of W. Bro. E. Davis of Zeta Lodge, Toronto. The presence of this brother added not a little to the pleasure of the meetings.

On October 24th, I paid an official visit to Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7, Vancouver. I had the pleasure of being accompanied by R.W. Bro. Watson, D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Nelson, D.D.G.M., No. 2 District; V.W. Bro. Erskine, Grand Treasurer, and a number of Westminster brethren. We received a hearty welcome from W. Bro. Hogg, W.M., and saw the M.M. degree conferred in an excellent manner.

On November 2nd, I visited Acacia Lodge, No. 22. W. Bro. F. Bowser, W.M., occupied the chair and conferred the E.A. degree on a candidate in a creditable manner. This was my first visit to Acacia since they moved down town, and I saw a marked improvement both in attendance and work.

On November 14th, I paid an official visit to King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, New Westminster, and was received by W. Bro. Vanstone, W.M., who, assisted by the officers, conferred the F.C. degree on a candidate in a very creditable manner.

On November 20th, I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12, Vancouver, accompanied by R. W. Bro. Nelson, D.D.G.M., and W. Bro. Vanstone, G.J.D. W. Bro. Buscombe, W.M., occupied the chair, and the M.M. degree was conferred in a first-class manner. After the lodge closed we repaired to the banquet hall, where the "Fourth" degree was worked to the satisfaction of all present. The Vancouver brethren are to be congratulated upon the successful manner in which they work this degree.

On December 27th, I attended in my official capacity a joint meeting of Union Lodge, No. 9, and King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, and installed the officers for the ensuing Masonic year.

On January 12th, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Nelson, D.D.G.M., No. 2 District, I visited Ionic Lodge, Chilliwack, and installed the officers for the ensuing year. After the ceremony was over we were entertained at a banquet, where a pleasant evening was spent.

On January 10th, I unofficially visited Pacific Lodge, No. 17, Mission City, and installed the S.W. and I.G., who had not been present when the annual installation took place on St. John's night. Pacific Lodge suffers from the fact that most of its members are non-residents of the district.

On April 4th, I paid an official visit to United Service Lodge, No. 24, Esquimalt, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Glover, D.D.G.M., No. 1 District, and several members of Victoria lodges. Three candidates were passed to the F.C. degree by W. Bro. Woodgate and his officers in a creditable manner. United Service Lodge is laboring under a serious disadvantage with regard to applications for membership, which I shall refer to in another part of my address.

On April 5th, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Glover, D.D.G.M., No. 1 District, I visited Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, Victoria, and was received by W. Bro. Mason, W.M. and a large attendance of brethren, amongst whom were P.G.M.'s McKeon and McMicking. The F.C. degree was conferred in a creditable manner.

On April 11th, I paid an official visit to King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, New Westminster. W. Bro. A. J. Brine conferred the F.C. degree on a candidate in a creditable manner.

On May 16th, I paid an official visit to Union Lodge, No. 9, (my own lodge). I was well received by W. Bro. G. Brine and a large attendance of brethren. No candidate presenting himself the E.A. degree was exemplified in a fairly creditable manner.

This, brethren, is the list of my official visits. On every occasion I was received with the greatest kindness and cordiality, and on every occasion after the lodge was closed I was entertained at a banquet. Let me add here that I strongly approve of following the regular lodge meetings with some form of refreshment. It emphasizes more fully the social side of our organization, and meeting thus round the supper-table tends to bring the brethren more closely together than even the routine work of the lodges can do.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.

In response to the just request of the W. Masters of Union and King Solomon Lodges, New Westminster, that I dedicate the hall in the new Masonic Temple there, I called a special Communication of Grand Lodge at 3 p.m. on June 20th. There was a large attendance of brethren, and the ceremony passed off most pleasantly. This is the third Masonic Temple that has been erected on the present site, the two previous ones having been destroyed by fire, and the brethren of

New Westminster deserve praise for their perseverance in re-erecting so handsome a building.

OFFICIAL DECISIONS.

The following decisions have been made by me during my term of office :—

1. Question.—Can the ballot be taken on five candidates for degrees collectively, or must it be spread individually?

Answer.—It must be taken individually.

2. Question.—In conferring the E.A. degree can more than one candidate be initiated at the same time, or must the degree be conferred upon each one separately?

Answer.—More than one candidate may have the degree conferred upon him at the same time, but the ceremony loses much of its impressiveness by thus administering it.

3. Question.—In case of election of officer (Treasurer) a tie resulted. Has the W.M. the casting vote, even if he has already voted once?

Answer.—Yes.

4. Question.—How can a brother who has received the E.A. & F.C. degrees in one lodge, and has then, owing to change of residence, had the M.M. degree conferred on him by another lodge (at the request of the body conferring the first two degrees) become a member of either lodge?

Answer.—The difficulty herein presented lies in the fact that a Mason becomes a member of the lodge by signing the by-laws after he has received the M.M. degree. (Sec. 204, Constitution.) The requirements of the Constitution will be complied with if a certified written or printed copy of the by-laws of the lodge in which the applicant received his first degree or degrees, be signed by him after he received his M.M. degree in the presence of an accredited witness, say the Secretary or the Master of the lodge in which he received his M.M. degree, and this certified copy be returned to his lodge and then kept as a permanent record. He then becomes a member of the lodge in which he received the first degree and may then demit or otherwise as he wishes.

5. Question.—Can an application for membership be received at other than a regular meeting?

Answer.—Yes, it can be received at an emergency meeting, provided it appears on the notice calling the meeting.

6. Question.—Can the report of the Investigation Committee be received and the ballot spread at other than the regular meetings.

Answer.—No.

7. A Masonic body may not incorporate under the laws of British Columbia governing incorporation.

8. A lodge may not establish a system of life membership based upon the payment by members of a fixed lump sum.

SUGGESTIONS, ETC.

Among the matters presented for my consideration during the year, was the question of lodge incorporation, and I deemed it expedient to refuse to allow a lodge to incorporate under the laws of British Columbia governing these matters. I am well aware that subordinate lodges in some Jurisdictions of the United States are allowed to incorporate, for the reason that in these States this is the only way in which they can hold property. Such a procedure, however, makes the lodge amenable to the civil law, and not alone to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. To such an extent is this possible that in some instances incorporated lodges have instituted legal proceedings against their Grand Master, much to the scandal of Freemasonry. All necessary legal conveniences accruing from incorporation may be experienced by vesting lodge property in the name of Trustees, who are elected annually or otherwise, by the lodge.

On the occasion of my official visit to United Service Lodge, Esquimalt, the W. Master called my attention to the difficulty they were laboring under in not being able to receive applications for membership except at regular meetings. (This difficulty is peculiar to this lodge from the fact that applicants are chiefly members of Her Majesty's Navy, who are seldom long enough in port at one time to make application at our regular meeting, and have it lie over for a month; and then be present to receive their degrees.) The matter was brought to the notice of the Grand Lodge by M.W. Bro. Wilson, when he was D.D.G.M. of No. 1 District, in 1897, but has never been satisfactorily settled. Section 163 of Constitution lays down that only matters specified on the notice calling an emergency meeting can be discussed at the meeting, but it does not place any limit or qualification as to what that business may be. Section 223, Constitution, specifies that the report of Investigating Committees must be received and ballot spread only at a regular meeting. I am of the opinion, therefore, that as the Constitution now stands, petitions may be received at emergency meetings, provided it is so stated upon the notice calling the meeting. That this should be adopted as a matter of routine is, I think, unwise, and I do not think it was so intended when the Constitution was framed. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England provides that a petition shall be received at one regular meeting and shall lie over till the next regular meeting before being balloted upon; it, however, has the following section which affords relief in exceptional cases. Section 185 says:—

"In cases of emergency the following course may be pursued. Any two members of a lodge may transmit in writing to the Master of the lodge the name, age, profession or occupation, and place of abode of any candidate whom they may wish to propose, and the circumstances which cause the emergency; and if in his opinion the emergency be real, the Master shall notify the proposition to every member of his lodge, either in the summons for the next regular meeting, or in a summons for a lodge of emergency, to meet at a period of not less than seven days from the issuing of the summons, and if the candidate be then approved on the ballot, he may be initiated. The Master shall, previously

to the ballot being taken, read the proposition, and state to the lodge the cause of the emergency, which shall be recorded in the minutes." I would suggest that this matter be referred to the Committee on Constitution to draw up amendments that will make our practice conform to that of the Grand Lodge of England as herein specified.

I would also suggest that the Constitution be so amended that candidates become members on receiving their M.M. degree, afterwards signing the By-Laws as soon as practicable, for it is the former ceremony, not the latter, that actually makes a Mason. Official rulings made by successive Grand Masters when adopted by Grand Lodge become law within this Grand Jurisdiction, consequently as years roll by the number of these rulings increase to a very considerable extent. In our Jurisdiction the only record of them is to be found in the printed proceedings of Grand Lodge, where they are somewhat lost in the mass of other matter which surrounds them, so that it is a matter of no little difficulty to unearth them. I would suggest that a compilation be made of all the official rulings that have been made so far as ascertainable, and that they be printed with the next annual proceedings or as an appendix to the Book of Constitutions.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

On July 12th I granted dispensation to Doric Lodge, No. 18, to install officers on July 18 instead of the day mentioned in the By-Laws.

July 12th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, to hold their meetings in the Baptist School-house, as their own lodge-room had been destroyed by fire.

August 25.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack, to attend divine service on October 1st, next, in regalia.

October 13th.—To United Service Lodge, No. 24, Esquimalt, to attend divine service on October 15th, in regalia.

October 28th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, Rossland, to hold meetings in the I.O.O.F. Hall until such time as their own lodge-room can be rebuilt.

November 16th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, Rossland, to confer the M.M. degree on a candidate in a less time than that specified in the Constitution, as he resided over two hundred miles from the lodge: provided, however, that he previously pass the necessary examination in the work of the preceding degree.

November 21st.—To Cascade Lodge, No. 12, Vancouver, to wear regalia at a Masonic ball on November 24th.

December 22nd.—To Ashlar Lodge, No. 3, Nanaimo, to wear regalia at a Masonic ball on December 27th.

December 25th.—To Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, Kamloops, to confer the M.M. degree on a candidate in a less time than that specified in the Constitution, as he resided over one hundred miles from lodge: provided, he previously pass the necessary examination in the work of the preceding degree.

January 8th, 1900.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack, to install officers on the regular Communication in January, instead of St. John's Night, as specified in the By-Laws.

January 20th.—To Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to elect and install officers on the regular meetings in February and March, respectively, instead of the nights mentioned in By-Laws.

March 26th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, Rossland, to re-spread the ballot in the case of two candidates rejected for degrees, in a less time than that specified in the Constitution, satisfactory evidence having been produced to show that the presence of black balls in the ballot could have been due to a structural defect in the ballot-box, which had not been previously discovered.

June 14th.—Granted dispensation to Nelson Lodge, No. 26, Nelson, to attend divine service in regalia on Sunday, June 17th, 1900.

June 20th.—Granted dispensation to Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to wear regalia at divine service on June 24th, next.

BY-LAWS APPROVED.

I have approved of the new By-Laws of the following lodges:

January 26th.—Alta Lodge, No. 29, Sandon.

January 9th.—North Star Lodge, No. 30, Fort Steele.

May 2nd.—Greenwood Lodge, No. 28, Greenwood.

I have approved of alterations and amendments to By-Laws of the following lodges:

July 8th.—St. John's Lodge, No. 21, to change night of meeting.

July 9th.—King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, general revision and consolidation.

April 6th, 1900.—Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, to present P.M.'s with jewels.

January 9th.—Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to change place of meeting.

Among the By-Laws submitted for my approval were clauses providing for life membership, such membership to be acquired by the payment of a lump sum, the amount of which varied with the length of time the applicant had previously been a member of the lodge. Life membership is a matter which must be approached with extreme caution, especially by young lodges with few or no assets to fall back upon. These lodges are practically dependent upon their monthly dues to meet current expenses, and should life membership be resorted to (and it is quite possible it might be) to any large extent, the lodge might in a short time find itself with so restricted an income as to be practically unable to continue its existence. For this reason combined with the fact that our Constitution does not recognize life members, I deemed it expedient to refuse my approval to those clauses referring to this matter.

NEW LODGES.

After due consideration of all the facts laid before me, I have granted dispensations to four new lodges at the following places:—

On July 21st.—I granted a dispensation to form a Masonic Lodge at Ymir, to be known as "Ymir Lodge," naming W. Bro. John F. Brown as W.M., Bro. J. McLeod as S.W., and Bro. G. Morris, J.W.

The lodge was instituted on August 4th, V.W. Bro. Quinlan, acting as instituting officer.

On September 14th I granted a dispensation to the brethren of Trail to form a Masonic Lodge at that place, to be known as "Fidelity Lodge," and named Bro. William Munter W.M., Bro. James H. Schofield, S.W., and Bro. H. V. O. Chittenton, J.W. W. Bro. Rayner instituted the lodge on October 13th.

On December 2nd, I granted a dispensation to fourteen brethren of Duncans to form a Masonic Lodge at that place, to be known as "Temple Lodge," and named W. Bro. John Frame, W.M., Bro. Harry Smith, S.W., and Bro. Samuel Robinson, J.W. The lodge was duly instituted by R.W. Bro. W. Stewart, D.D.G.M.

Early in the Masonic year I received an application from a number of brethren resident in Cranbrook for permission to form a lodge in that place, but from the knowledge I then had I deemed it inexpedient and refused the request. Subsequently, however, fuller information caused me to reconsider this decision, and upon the brethren again applying to me, I, on March 29th, granted a dispensation to them to form a lodge to be known as "Cranbrook Lodge," with W. Bro. Moffit, P.M., as W.M.; Bro. William F. Tate, S.W., and Bro. Robert E. Beattie, J.W. The lodge was instituted by V.W. Bro. Quinlan, on April 7th.

The returns for all lodges under dispensation will be laid before you and from a perusal of the reports of the D.D.G.M.'s and the returns in the hands of the Grand Secretary, I have no hesitation in recommending that a charter be granted in each case. Four other applications for dispensations to form new lodges have been presented to me, but after a due inquiry into the circumstances of each case I deemed it in the best interests of Masonry to either entirely refuse the request, or to ask that it be laid over for further consideration. In a rapidly growing community such as ours, too much care cannot be exercised in seeing that the future prospects of the lodges applying for a dispensation are thoroughly assured, and that if granted, the interests of the new lodge will not conflict with those of any lodge previously established. I acknowledge to have found extreme difficulty in satisfying myself upon these points in some of the mining towns of the Interior, but with the assistance and advice of trusted brethren resident in the districts referred to, I believe a correct conclusion in the present cases has been arrived at.

LODGES CONSTITUTED.

At our last Annual Communication charters were ordered to be issued to three lodges then under dispensation, this has in each case

been done, and the lodges duly constituted and their officers installed. In the case of Alta Lodge, No. 29, Sandon, R.W. Bro. R. F. Green, D.D.G.M., of No. 6 District, acted as installing officer, performing the ceremony on August 3rd. On September 2nd, V.W. Bro. Quinlan constituted North Star Lodge, No. 20, Fort Steele, and installed the officers, and on November 16th R.W. Bro. Goodeve, J.G.W., constituted Greenwood Lodge, No. 28, and installed the officers.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The remarks passed by various members at our last Annual Communication showed fully that the work of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was fully appreciated by the Grand Lodge. That this approval is not confined to members of our own Grand Lodge is apparent when we read the favorable comments passed upon our Foreign Correspondence Report by the reviewers in other jurisdictions. Suggestions were then thrown out that it might be advisable on the ground of economy in printing that this report should be somewhat curtailed. This would be, I think, a great mistake, and I would ask W. Bro. DeWolf Smith to continue in the good work as heretofore. With regard to economy, however, I might point out to the Printing Committee that much might be saved by having our proceedings printed in a smaller type and unleaded. This would in no way detract from its appearance and usefulness, but would materially reduce the cost.

While on the subject of Committees I should like to impress upon the members of the various Committees the importance of their appointments; so far it would appear to me that the tendency is to look upon these appointments as purely honorary, as a matter of fact the reverse is the case. They carry with them little honor, no handsome regalia, no special seat in Grand Lodge; but if faithfully discharged, a large amount of work. The standing Committees should meet before Grand Lodge meets and draw up their report beforehand in a careful and deliberate manner, weighing well the matter laid before them. As a matter of actual practice what does take place is that the members of standing Committees are seldom in attendance at all, and a scratch committee is appointed after Grand Lodge meets, and they draw up their report, often in a hurried manner, and meanwhile, during their absence, the Grand Lodge is deprived of the benefit of their presence at its deliberation. I have this year caused the Grand Secretary to specially notify the members of standing Committees to be present before Grand Lodge convenes, so that they may have ample time to draw up their reports.

GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

A careful inquiry into the investments of Grand Lodge funds leads me to the conclusion that several of our loans are far from satisfactory. If we had to realize upon the security held it would be a matter for surprise if they realized the amount of the loans. I would suggest that the whole system of investing our funds be looked into, and further, that the Trustees be instructed to invest the funds of Grand Lodge in such securities as are practically perfectly safe, and at the

same time more readily realizable, viz.: municipal debentures and Government securities, and that should these not be obtainable when funds are ready for investment, that the money be kept in the savings department of some chartered bank until suitable investment offers. A lower rate of interest would result, but almost absolute security would be insured.

GRAND LODGE RECORDS AND LIBRARY.

The necessity of forming a Masonic Library has more than once been introduced to the notice of Grand Lodge by previous Grand Masters and D.D. Grand Masters, but so far no practical suggestions have been made by which this might become a reality; possibly the scheme has been allowed to stand in abeyance because of the probable expenditure which it would entail. I am of the opinion that with a comparatively small outlay, and with the material we have already accumulated, we could lay the foundation of what would be at once a useful, and in the near future, might be a very creditable library. The Grand Lodge at present possesses about six hundred volumes of foreign proceedings and other Masonic literature thrown together in the room in the Masonic Temple, Victoria, and in such a condition as to be perfectly useless for reference or anything else. Moreover, the room is too small to answer the purpose, if any attempt at arrangement were made. M.W. Bro. Wilson at our last Annual Communication drew attention to the chaotic condition existing with regard to this room, which is intended for an official office for the Grand Secretary, and also to the unsatisfactory state of our records; instructions were then given to have some of the defects remedied, and this has to some extent been done, but much still remains to be done. I consider that the system of having some of our records and books of reference, etc., kept in Victoria, now that the Grand Secretary is a resident of Nelson, is a mistake. It should be, and I believe is, part of the duty of the Grand Secretary to personally receive and keep in such order as to be readily accessible to any one entitled to the privilege, all the records of Grand Lodge, together with the books of Masonic reference and proceedings of foreign Grand Lodges. To do this efficiently, unless the Grand Secretary and the office or rooms especially devoted to that purpose are located in the same place is impossible. The present system whereby the Grand Secretary deputizes some brother in Victoria to keep an eye on the office there, should not be allowed to continue. A suitable room or rooms should be obtained which would answer the purpose of Grand Secretary's office and library, and in these all the records, books and proceedings should be placed. This official office should either be where the Grand Secretary resides, or else the Grand Secretary should reside where the office is located. By adopting a system such as is herein outlined, not only would greater efficiency in the works of the Grand Secretary's office be insured, but Grand Lodge would be providing itself with a useful Masonic library. In reference to this matter I should like to express to our worthy Grand Secretary, to whom I am indebted for many acts of courtesy, regret, if in writing these remarks I seem to criticize his methods of administration, but I feel I should not be discharging my duty to the Craft if I allowed a system so obviously faulty to continue unchallenged.

MEMORIAL WINDOW.

Before our last Annual Communication. Union Lodge obtained permission from the M.W. Grand Master to issue a circular letter asking for subscriptions from the various lodges in the Jurisdiction towards placing a memorial window in Holy Trinity Cathedral to our late V.W. Grand Chaplain, Bishop Sillitoe, who was for many years a prominent and valuable member of the Grand Lodge. A very handsome window has been placed in the sacred edifice mentioned, in which, among other Masonic devices a representation of the seal of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia forms a conspicuous part. The following inscription tells its own tale: "This window is erected to the memory of the Right Rev. A. W. Sillitoe, late Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, by the Freemasons of this Jurisdiction." I consider that a small sum in aid of this memorial should be voted by Grand Lodge, so that we may share in the work of perpetuating the memory of our deceased distinguished brother.

CONCLUSION.

Brethren my year of office is almost closed, and I shall shortly surrender to you the authority with which you clothed me just a year ago. In doing so let me express to you my sincere thanks for the honor you then conferred.

The discharge of the various duties of Grand Master, while making me fully conscious of my own short comings, has been a source of unmixed pleasure to me, and the cheerful and hearty response which all my actions have elicited from those with whom I came in contact, from the youngest E.A. to the R.W.D.G. Master has added not a little to the harmonious result. I now ask your aid and assistance in the deliberations on which we are about to enter.

R. EDEN WALKER.

Grand Master.

Resolved—That the address of the Grand Master be referred to a Special Committee of three.

The R. W. Deputy Grand Master named M. W. Bros. McLaren and Wilson and W. Bro. De Wolf Smith as such Committee.

 DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.:

I have the honor to submit my report as Deputy Grand Master:—

On July 5th, 1899, I visited United Service Lodge, No. 24. and assisted by M.W. Bros. McKeown and McMicking, R.W. Bro. George

Glover, D.D.G.M.; V.W. Bro. Logan, W. Bros. Muir, Cartmel and Salmon, installed the officers.

This lodge is noted for the success of its installation ceremonies, and this one was no exception to the rule. Bro. T. N. Woodgate, the new W.M., is surrounded by a set of officers who are loyal in their support, and no anxiety need be felt with regard to the upholding of Masonic principle in this lodge.

It was my privilege on this occasion, on behalf of the lodge, to present the retiring Master, Bro. C. Ensor Sharp, that stalwart Mason, with a Past Master's jewel.

The banquet which followed the meeting was one of the best arranged that it has been my pleasure to attend, and will not soon be forgotten.

On October 10th, 1899, I accompanied the Grand Master to Wellington, St. John's Lodge, No. 21. Third degree exemplified by W. Bro. Stephenson; very well done.

On October 24th, 1899, I accompanied the Grand Master to Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7. Witnessed the Third degree by William Hogg, W.M.; all that could be desired.

On November 1st, 1899, I visited Union Lodge, No. 9, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Charles Nelson, D.D.G.M. Saw the First degree exemplified by W. Bro. George Brine. Books and accounts of this lodge are in good shape. They are comfortable in their new lodge-room, and future prospects bright.

On November 6th, 1899, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Goodeve, J.G. Warden, I visited Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, Rossland. The First degree was exemplified by W. Bro. Dunn. Found Masonry in Rossland to be in a satisfactory condition; although only a short time before their lodge had been destroyed by fire, a new one, which is eminently suited for the work was under construction and almost completed.

A banquet at the Kootenay House wound up a very pleasant visit.

On November 8th, 1899, I visited Nelson Lodge, No. 23. W. Bro. Arthur exemplified the Second degree. Lodge is in a flourishing condition and prospects good; large attendance, including many Past Masters. A very pleasant little banquet was served during the evening.

On November 10th, 1899, I visited Kaslo Lodge, No. 25, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Green, D.D.G.M. Third degree by W. Bro. Byers; work was well done. Lodge in good condition; good attendance. A banquet was tendered that was a marvel of culinary art and decoration.

On November 11th, 1899, I visited Alta Lodge, No. 29, Sardon. Bro. I. M. Bernard worked the Third degree; well done. This lodge had just received its charter. They are not meeting in their own

room, but arrangements for their own lodge-room were under consideration. Since my visit this town was visited by a disastrous fire. Fortunately the lodge-room was not burned, being one of the few buildings which escaped. I am assured by W. Bro. Bernard that while numbers of the brethren suffered, yet, with characteristic perseverance and pluck, all were preparing to resume business with undaunted courage.

For a young lodge, the enthusiasm and zeal displayed was most pleasing. A pleasant banquet brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

On January 4th, 1900, I accepted an invitation of Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, to attend installation of officers, and assisted in the ceremony. There was a large attendance. C. Dubois Mason installed the W.M. and handled the large meeting well.

I had the pleasure of presenting, on behalf of the lodge, the retiring W. Master, Bro. R. E. Brett, with a Past Master's jewel. Bro. Brett enjoys a large share of popularity, which is not undeserved.

A banquet, with music and song, were indulged in after the meeting.

On May 9th, 1900, I visited Pacific Lodge, No. 16, Mission, accompanied by R. W. Bro. Chas. Nelson, D.D.G.M. Found this lodge in a state of coma, verging on death. It was a case of heroic treatment or no lodge. I administered the dose, promising to return at the next regular meeting to observe the effect.

On May 21st, 1900, I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12, Vancouver, accompanied by R.W. Bro. Nelson, D.D.G.M. First degree exemplified by W. Bro. Hartley.

On June 6th, 1900, I visited Pacific Lodge, No. 16, for the second time. Found considerable improvement; better attendance. W. Master Bro. Catherwood exemplified the Second degree. One petition for initiation was presented; considerable money was received for dues; the returns to Grand Lodge had been sent in and were correct; the insurance policy on the building had been forwarded to the Grand Treasurer, and an effort had been made all round to place things on a better basis.

R. W. Brothers Miller and McNaughton, Bros. Sykes and Schofield were kind enough to accompany me on this visit, and assisted me in exemplifying the Third degree for the instruction of the Lodge. There can be no doubt that this lodge has many difficulties to contend with, the principal one being the distance a great many of the members live from the lodge-room, still the honor and dignity of Masonry is to be maintained and charters from the Grand Lodge of British Columbia are not to be disgraced by slipshod attendance, dowdy indifference and half-hearted work.

I would recommend that the incoming D.D.G.M. for No. 2 District give this lodge particular attention.

As Grand Lodge holds a mortgage on the building owned by this lodge doubtless they will be interested to know that the sum of \$200 has been expended during the last year on repairs. The building is now strong, the new beams and braces being of a most substantial character. On my second visit the tenant who had occupied the store below had disappeared. The building is badly in need of a coat of paint. I would advise the reduction of the mortgage by \$25 or \$50 at a time, as the funds of the lodge would stand it.

On June 7th, 1900, I visited Acacia Lodge, No. 22, Vancouver; good attendance; lodge affairs and finances in good shape. W. Bro. McKinnon was prepared to exemplify the Second degree.

On June 12th, 1900, I visited King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, New Westminster. This was D.D.G.M. Nelson's meeting, and I had the good fortune to be present. Second degree exemplified by W. Bro. A. J. Brine; fair attendance; D.D.G.M. reported books in good order; officers seemed confident and hopeful for future.

The centennial of the death of Bro. George Washington was commemorated by International Lodge, No. 79, Blaine, Washington, on December 14th, 1899. R.W. Bro. Peter McNaughton and myself joined in New Westminster, the Grand Master and a number of Brethren from Union and King Solomon Lodges, of New Westminster, who were on their way to attend this important function. Doubtless the Grand Master will give you a full report of the meeting. The friendly and brotherly greeting, the arrangement and decoration of the lodge-room, in which the Union Jack received equal prominence with the Stars and Stripes, the singing of our National Anthem, and the general desire to convince us that Masonry is the universal science we claim for it, succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, and we all came away better Masons, with a better understanding of a patriotic nation mourning for a dead chieftain.

W. Bro. Geo. A. Ellsperman, of this lodge, with a number of the members subsequently visited Mount Hermon and Cascade Lodges, where a renewal of the pleasant relations was indulged in. The brethren from Blaine are doing their best to encourage these international visits and to emulate the example of that noble Mason, George Washington.

In closing let me assure the Grand Lodge of the pleasure it has been to me to assist the Grand Master in the administration of your affairs during the past year.

Faternally submitted,

HARRY H. WATSON,
Deputy Grand Master.

Resolved—That the address of the Deputy Grand Master be referred to the Committee on the Address of the Grand Master.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

Nelson, B.C., June 15th, 1900.

In accordance with Constitutional requirements, it affords me pleasure to submit details of the transactions of my office for your consideration. Let me preface my report by congratulating Grand Lodge on the progress and prosperity of our constituent lodges. I cannot better illustrate than by stating that the total gain by lodges chartered is 196, while the total losses are 9. Of these, a loss of seven occurs in United Service, No. 24, owing to the recall of the flagship (which necessitated the dismissal of sixteen members). While this lodge has made a loss in members, it may be interesting to note that their financial position is unique. They have funds and property to the extent of \$84 per member. Were every lodge in the Jurisdiction in the same position, the total funds and properties of lodges would reach the snug sum of \$139,600. I think it is safe to infer that this lodge will be in position to pay their annual dues at least for a few years hence.

"Proceedings."—The proceedings of the Twenty-eighth Annual Communication were issued to those with whom we enjoy fraternal relations, and the members of this Grand Lodge in due time. W. Bro. F. M. Cowperthwaite, who conducted the business details of printing, deserves the thanks of Grand Lodge for the very efficient service rendered.

COMMISSIONS.

From the fact that M.W. Grand Master has in his address given all information on this point, I will not weary with reiteration. The commissions in question have been duly received, or issued, and in possession of those brethren interested.

PAST MASTER'S DIPLOMAS.

Diploma No.	NAME.	Year of Office.	LODGE.	Date Issued.
23	Arch. C. Muir.....	1895	United Service, No. 24.	21st July, 1899
24	Robt. E. Brett.....	1899	Vic.-Columbia, No. 1...	31st December, 1899
25	Reginald A. Bosanquet	1899	Ashlar, No. 3	2nd January, 1900
26	Geo. Johnstone	1899	Nelson, No. 23.....	3rd March, 1900

As dispensations of certain kinds have a financial value, I herewith submit for general information those issued by the Grand Master, and his predecessor, which have a bearing on the receipts of this year:

DISPENSATIONS, 1899-1900.

April 15th, 1899.—To Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, to confer the Third degree upon Bro. A. W. Bushell, in less interval of time than the Constitution requires.

July 11th.—To Doric Lodge, No. 18, to install officers on other date than lodge By-Laws specify.

July 15th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, to hold lodge meetings in the Baptist Church, Rossland, pending the erection of the new Masonic Hall.

On July 22nd.—To John F. Burn, John McLeod, Grant Morris, and associate brethren, to form a new lodge at the Town of Ymir, to be known as "Ymir Lodge."

August 26th.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19, to wear regalia at public divine service.

September 16th.—To William Munter, James H. Schofield, H. V. O. Chatterton and associate brethren, to form a new lodge at the town of Trail, to be known as "Fidelity Lodge."

October 30th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, to hold lodge meetings in Oddfellows' Hall, Rossland, pending completion of the new Masonic Hall.

November 16th.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, to confer the Third degree on Bro. William A. Smith in less interval of time than required by Constitution.

November 25th.—To Cascade Lodge, No. 12, to wear regalia at a ball 24th November, 1899.

December 2nd.—To John Frame, J. G. Hands, Samuel Robinson and associate brethren, to form a new lodge at the Town of Duncans, to be known as "Temple Lodge."

December 18th.—To Ashlar Lodge, No. 3, to wear regalia in public at a ball, 27th December, 1899.

December 25th.—To Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, to confer the Third degree on Bro. A. R. Carrington, in less interval of time than the Constitution requires.

January 9th, 1900.—To Ionic Lodge, No. 19, to install officers on other date than lodge By-Laws specify.

January 25th.—To Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to elect officers, for current year, on 12th February, 1900; and install same at some future practicable date.

April 2nd.—To Alexander Moffat, William R. Tate, R. E. Beattie, and associate brethren, to form a new lodge at the Town of Cranbrook, to be known as "Cranbrook Lodge."

FRATERNAL DEAD.

Lodge No. 1.....Fred'k Williams, P.G.M.; John Weiler, P.M.

" No. 2.....Dixie H. Ross, P.Sr.G.W.

- Lodge No. 3...Colin C. McKenzie, P.M.; David Harris, Wm. Trounce
 " No. 4.....Henry McDermott, D.D.G.M.
 " No. 7.....Joseph Little, P.M.
 " No. 9.....John Bule, P.M.; Benj. Douglass, P.G. Treasurer;
 James V. Rankin.
 " No. 10.....Charles R. Slater, P.M.
 " No. 12.....Paul C. Vanhorn, J. M. Buxton
 " No. 16.....W. S. Stewart
 " No. 18.....Matthew Wamsley
 " No. 27.....George Erchman

STATISTICS.

SUSPENSIONS—N. P. D.

- Lodge No. 1.—Thomas H. Prossor, Hy. Saunders, Henry Creech.
 Lodge No. 2.—Samuel G. Harrison, Adolph Newman.
 Lodge No. 3.—E. W. Barrett, T. H. Davis, R. Mehaffy, W. J. Robinson, P. Zalinsky.
 Lodge No. 7.—R. Casselman.
 Lodge No. 10.—John Bannerman.
 Lodge No. 14.—Kenneth Grant.
 Lodge No. 15.—Morgan David, A. Paul, Frederick Kegler.
 Lodge No. 16.—Wm. McGillivray.
 Lodge No. 17.—J. M. McLean, E. G. W. Sait, J. B. Ballantyne, Wm. Campbell, Henry Crane.
 Lodge No. 18.—J. H. Smith, E. M. Yarwood.
 Lodge No. 19.—W. H. Dickson.
 Lodge No. 21.—John H. Scott.
 Lodge No. 22.—John Johnson.
 Lodge No. 24.—John E. Harvey.
 Lodge No. 25.—A. S. Marshall, H. A. Cameron, R. R. Cameron, S. A. Mighton, Robert Strathearn.
 Lodge No. 27.—Jesse A. Bigelow.

RESTORATIONS.

- Lodge No. 3.—Thomas Milne, George A. McBain.
 Lodge No. 7.—J. L. Franklin, H. T. Devine.
 Lodge No. 9.—Gerald H. Cross.
 Lodge No. 10.—Wm. H. Smith.
 Lodge No. 17.—Peter Peebles.
 Lodge No. 23.—Gilbert Stanley.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Under this head there is more than usual. The Committee on Constitutions has been requested to report on advisable amendments to the present regulations re Charity Fund.

The Committee on Charity has also a question of relief to Mountain Lodge, No. 11, Golden, on account of Bro. Fred Jackson (a member), as well as the consideration of usual rebates to lodges.

The Committee on Petitions has the consideration of the issuing of charters to those lodges now under dispensations. As well, there

is a petition from Bro. Adam Thompson, late of Doric Lodge, No. 18, for reinstatement.

RETURNS FROM LODGES.

An excellent idea, to my mind, was inaugurated last year by the Committee on Chartered Lodges in giving a detailed account of and individual criticism on all lodge returns submitted. Hoping this plan will again be adopted, I refrain from making any personal remarks. I cannot, however, allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my high appreciation of the work of two of the Secretaries among many good ones. I refer to W. Bro. DeWolf Smith, of Union Lodge, No. 9, and Bro. Thomas Brown, of Alta Lodge, No. 29. The former sent in a return at an early date entirely "machine-made," and absolutely correct in every detail. In justice to this worthy brother, I must say it is the most perfect and beautiful return I have ever yet received. There may be an excuse for Bro. DeWolf Smith, as he is an old Secretary with large experience, but Bro. Brown, whose return is almost as good, is in his first term, and has only been a Mason a few months. In a conversation with this brother, in Nelson, lately, I asked him who helped him with his return. His reply, I think, might be taken as an object lesson: "Why, nobody; I don't see why any Secretary who reads the Constitution and the instructions sent, cannot do as well."

LODGES U. D.

From personal revision of the work done by these lodges I feel assured the report submitted by the Committee on Petitions will meet with the approval of the Grand Lodge. They have all done good work, and in the cases of those located in the Kootenays, I can vouch from personal acquaintance with those in charge, that material not fitting will never gain admission.

M. M. DIPLOMAS.

During the year I have experienced considerable difficulty in getting the Secretaries to send for the diplomas required with despatch. There seems to be a misapprehension, notwithstanding the fact that the Secretaries were notified to the contrary, that until candidates have passed a satisfactory examination in the Third degree the requisition for diplomas was unnecessary. I am pleased to state, however, that with considerable trouble and much correspondence, I have succeeded in supplying diplomas to all those who have been raised prior to the 1st March. I trust in future that the effort I have made in this direction for many years, of having the number raised and diplomas issued to correspond, will prevent further trouble, and that the Secretaries will assist to the best of their ability in completing this very necessary detail.

PROSPECTS.

Arrangements have been made by the Masons residing at Fernie and Grand Forks to apply for dispensations as soon as this session is completed. In each case the brethren have chosen their officers, and secured a suitable meeting place, and are now perfecting themselves

In the work. Both of these locations are growing towns in Kootenay, and there is no doubt that if dispensations are granted there will be good lodges formed at these points. I trust that their application will receive approval when they are received by the Grand Master. In conclusion let me express my thanks to those with whom I have been in correspondence during the past year. To the Secretaries of all lodges I tender special thanks for the uniform courtesy extended.

Fraternally submitted,

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secretary

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS FROM LODGES.

LODGES.	No.	Funds and Property.	RELIEF GRANTED.			
			Members	Widows and Orphans.	Transients.	Miscellaneous.
*Victoria-Columbia	1	\$7,910 68	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Vancouver-Quadra	2	5,213 29	\$ 12 50	.....	.....	\$18 25
Ashlar	3	12,600 00	270 00	.....	.....	.....
Cariboo	4	283 62	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Mt. Hermon	7	3,383 63	50 00	\$10 00	.....	155 00
Union	9	3,800 00	.....	.....	.....	42 00
Kamloops	10	3,700 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mountain	11	470 00	150 00	.....	.....	.....
*Cascade	12	4,500 00	.....	.....	.....	98 00
Spallumcheen	13	1,328 25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hiram	14	500 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kootenay	15	372 75	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pacific	16	1,974 95	.....	.....	.....	.....
King Solomon	17	750 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Doric	18	265 75	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ionic	19	920 00	35 00	.....	.....	.....
Miriam	20	311 70	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. John's	21	2,139 90	50 00	.....	.....	.....
*Acacia	22	550 00	30 00	.....	.....	30 00
Nelson	23	2,303 40	.....	.....	.....	.....
United Service	24	3,500 00	.....	.....	.....	53 50
Kaslo	25	1,521 40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cumberland	26	400 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Corinthian	27	2,200 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Greenwood	28	700 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Alta	29	549 45	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Star	30	498 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ymir	U.D.	223 15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fidelity	U.D.	258 35	.....	.....	.....	.....
Temple	U.D.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cranbrook	U.D.	302 45	.....	.....	.....	.....

* Charity disbursed by local Boards of Relief.

RECAPITULATION.

Chartered Lodges	27
Lodges—U. D.	4
Initiated in all Lodges	234
Passed	210
Raised	213
Affiliated	98
Demitted	64
Restored	8
Suspended—N. P. D.	34
Died	17
Rejected	46
Diplomas, M.M.	230
Diplomas, P.M.	4
Dispensations issued	12
Members in Chartered Lodges	1,699
Total on Rolls of all Lodges	1,889
Total F.C.'s	39
Total E.A.'s	92
Total funds and property all Lodges	\$47,728 82
Total Relief to Members	597 50
Total Relief to Widows and Orphans	79 00
Total Relief to Transients	—
Miscellaneous	394 75

SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Lodges.	No.	Location.	Mem- bers at \$1.	Initia- tions at \$1.	Passing at \$1.	Raisings at \$1.	Arthia- tions at \$1.	M. M. Lupio mas at \$2	Dispen- sations.	War Rents at \$75.	Total Dues.
Victoria-Columbia.	1	Victoria.	\$140 00	\$8 00	\$7 00	\$10 00	\$ 5 00	\$20 00	.....	.....	\$ 190 00
Vancouver-Quadr.	2	Victoria.	118 00	9 00	11 00	8 00	3 00	16 00	.....	.....	165 00
Ashlar.	3	Nanaimo.	90 00	8 00	6 00	6 00	5 00	12 00	\$ 5 00	.....	132 01
Cariboo.	4	Barkerville.	125 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	.....	4 00	.....	.....	33 00
Mt. Hermon.	7	Vancouver.	153 00	24 00	22 00	23 00	11 00	66 00	.....	.....	234 00
Union.	9	New Westminster.	93 00	4 00	5 00	8 00	1 00	16 00	.....	.....	127 00
Kamloops.	10	Kamloops.	39 00	11 00	10 00	7 00	.....	14 00	30 00	.....	131 00
Mountain.	11	Golden.	35 00	8 00	8 00	8 00	1 00	16 00	2 50	.....	95 50
Cascade.	12	Vancouver.	192 00	11 00	6 00	10 00	6 00	20 00	5 00	.....	251 00
Spallumcheen.	13	Armstrong.	29 00	5 00	4 00	4 00	2 00	8 00	.....	.....	32 00
Hiram.	14	Courtenay.	32 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 00
Kootenay.	15	Revelstoke.	35 00	5 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	10 00	.....	.....	62 00
Pacific.	16	Mission.	39 00	3 00	4 00	6 00	.....	12 00	.....	.....	64 00
King Solomon.	17	New Westminster.	55 00	6 00	8 00	7 00	5 00	24 00	.....	.....	105 00
Doric.	18	Nanaimo.	36 00	4 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	2 50	.....	48 50
Ionic.	19	Chilliwack.	37 00	9 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	10 00	2 50	.....	70 50
Miriam.	20	Vernon.	25 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	18 00	.....	.....	50 00
St. John's.	21	Wellington.	45 00	9 00	7 00	4 00	.....	14 00	.....	.....	79 00
Acacia.	22	Vancouver.	57 00	7 00	9 00	7 00	3 00	14 00	.....	.....	97 00
Nelson.	23	Nelson.	95 00	13 00	16 00	19 00	9 00	38 00	.....	.....	190 00
United Service.	24	Esquimalt.	43 00	4 00	3 00	3 00	6 00	6 00	.....	.....	65 00
Kaslo.	25	Kaslo.	52 00	8 00	9 00	8 00	5 00	16 00	.....	.....	98 00
Cumberland.	26	Union.	28 00	6 00	5 00	3 00	.....	6 00	.....	.....	48 00
Corinthian.	27	Roseland.	96 00	12 00	10 00	1 00	14 00	22 00	20 00	.....	185 00
Greenwood.	28	Greenwood.	26 00	6 00	6 00	9 00	9 00	28 00	.....	\$75 00	151 00
Alta.	29	Sandon.	38 00	8 00	9 00	4 00	3 00	34 00	.....	75 00	126 00
North Star.	30	Fort Steele.	26 00	3 00	1 00	8 00	3 00	14 00	.....	.....	60 00
Ymir.	U. D.	Ymir.	26 00	10 00	9 00	8 00	3 00	.....	30 00	.....	60 00
Fidelity.	U. D.	Trail.	.....	12 00	7 00	6 00	5 00	.....	30 00	.....	53 00
Temple.	U. D.	Duncans.	.....	10 00	7 00	6 00	.....	.....	30 00	.....	8 00
Cranbrook.	U. D.	Cranbrook.	.....	8 00	6 00	5 00	.....	.....	30 00	.....	34 00
P. M. Diplomats.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Spallumcheen.	13	Armstrong.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$3,380 50

* Dues for 1898-99 as specified in last Return.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

In submitting for your consideration the transactions of my office, it affords me pleasure to state that from a financial point of view the year just closed has been the banner one.

I regret, however, not having been able to carry out instructions as suggested by the Finance Committee to have the "John's-Greenwood" note retired, but have assurance that the request will be complied with at a very early date.

P. J. Davies.—The collection of interest on this account has been very unsatisfactory, and now for the second time this year it is in the hands of solicitors for collection.

On all other loans the interest has been met fairly satisfactorily, but you will notice that for some years past no reduction whatever has been made on account of these. Would it not be well in some cases at least to require that a certain reduction be made annually?

Loans to our Brethren of New Westminster.—Some are struggling hard to repay, and when unable to meet their notes as they become due never "oil" with their renewals and a courteous reply. Sorry to have to substitute the word "some" for "all."

The Charity Fund grows slowly; while we have a nominal asset of, say \$6,000, the revenue from this source alone is very small. When charity has to be dispensed it necessarily has to be done with a meager hand. Unless some action is taken to augment this fund I fear the day is far distant when "as an institution" Masonic charity will be much of a public benefactor. Would it be departing too much from our old established rules and usages now at the dawn of the 20th century to ask every Mason within this Jurisdiction for a subscription of one (1) dollar for said purpose, and thus endeavor to establish a charity fund worthy of Masonry? While upon this subject, let me also suggest now that the General Fund has a surplus not required for the transactions of its office, that a lump sum, as may be agreed upon by the Finance Committee, be transferred to Charity Fund and put out on loan; also that a broker be employed for the collecting of all interest, and that the office of Treasurer be made an honorary one.

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

To Balance as per Statement, 1899.....	\$2,141 58
To Receipts from all sources	3,389 50
	\$5,531 08
Disbursements as per vouchers 75 to 92, including 10 per cent. to Charity Fund	2,058 10
Balance	\$3,472 98

CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT.

To Balance as per Statement, 1899.....	\$5,500 28
To Receipts from all sources	885 97
Disbursements as per vouchers 72, 73, 74, and sundries.....	\$6,386 25
	585 85
By Securities transferred to Trustees	\$5,800 40
	5,000 40
Balance	\$800 00

Fraternally submitted.

A. B. ERSKINE,
Grand Treasurer.

A. B. ERSKINE, Grand Treasurer,
In Account Current with the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of British Columbia.

1899.		1900.	
To Balance as per Statement, 1899	No.	July 1	By Order No. 75, W. O. Miller
" Cash, Victoria-Columbia, "	1.	22 "	" " 76, Insurance Regalia
" " Vancouver-Quadra, "	2.	22 "	" " 77, Treasurer's bond
" " Ashlar, "	3.	22 "	" " 78, salary
" " Carlboo, "	4.	22 "	" " 79, Grand Tyler
" " Mt. Hermon, "	7.	21 "	" " 80, W. A. DeWolf Smith
" " Union, "	9.	21 "	" " 81, W. H. Phillips
" " Kamloops, "	10.	29 "	" " 82, Colonist Printing Co.
" " Mountain, "	11.	9 "	" " 83, Postage Proceedings
" " Cascade, "	12.	9 "	" " 84, Printing
" " Spallumcheen, (1899)	13.	20 "	" " 85, Postage, Express, Tele-
" " "	14.	20 "	grams, etc.
" " Hiram, "	15.	20 "	" " 86, Printing Summons, 28th
" " Kootenay, "	16.	20 "	Annual
" " Pacific, "	17.	June 7	" " 87, Grand Sec'y, Salary
" " King Solomon, "	18.	15 "	" " 88, Printing Annual Notices,
" " Doric, "	19.	15 "	etc.
" " Ionic, "	20.	15 "	" " 89, Printing Notices N. West-
" " Miriam, "	21.	15 "	minster Dedication
" " St. John's, "	22.	15 "	" " 90, Office rent, Grand Sec'y's
" " Acacia, "	23.	15 "	Office in Victoria
" " Nelson, "	24.	15 "	" " 91, Grand Sec'y, Salary
" " Kaslo, "	25.	15 "	Exchange
" " Cumberland, "	26.	15 "	" 10% of revenue to Charity Fund
" " Corinthian, "	27.	15 "	" Order No. 92, Exp., Postage, Telegrams.
" " Greenwood (char. fees)	28.	15 "	
" " "	29.	15 "	
			Balance
			\$2,038 10
			3,472 98

\$5,531 08

A. B. ERSKINE, Grand Treasurer.

A. B. ERSKINE, Grand Treasurer,
In Account with the Charity Fund of the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of British Columbia.

1899.		\$5,500 28
July 26	To Balance, as per Statement, 1899.....	
Sept. 5	" Cash, Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2, 1 year's int. on loan of \$880 @ 6 per cent. \$ 40 80	
16	" Col. R. Arch. Chapter, No. 120, 1 year's int. on \$2,100 @ 6 per cent. 126 00	
Oct. 3	" B. H. John, year's interest on \$450 @ 9 per cent. 40 50	
4	" D. Walker, re-payment of loan, Westminster fire. 50 00	
4	" Pacific Lodge, No. 16, year's int. on \$500 @ 6 1/2 per cent. 32 50	
20	" A. McRae, re-payment of loan, Westminster fire. 10 00	
20	" C. A. Welsh, re-payment of loan, Westminster fire. 50 00	
Nov. 13	" F. Sturdy, 6 mos. interest on \$600 @ 8 per cent. 24 00	
1900.	" P. J. Davies, 11 months interest on \$1,300 @ 7 per cent. 83 42	
May 3	" Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2, year's interest on \$830 @ 6 per cent. 40 80	
18	" F. Sturdy, 6 mos. interest on \$600 @ 8 per cent. 24 00	
20	" Ten per cent. revenue from cur- rent account. 338 95	
	" Fred. Jackson, re-payment on loan, Westminster fire.....	25 00
		885 97
		\$6,386 25

June 28	By Cash, Mortgage Tax, Westminster.....	\$ 2 50
July 1	" " Exchange " Victoria.....	7 75
Nov. 13	" Order 72, Acacia Lodge, No. 22.....	10
	" 73, Loan, New Westminster brethren, after fire. 45 50	
	" 74, Grand Treasurer.....	500 00
	" Cash, Mason & Bradburn, collecting interest, P. J. Davies.....	23 00
	" Securities transferred to Trustees.....	5 00
	Balance in cash.....	\$ 585 85
		5,000 40
		890 00

A. B. ERSKINE, Grand Treasurer.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Victoria, B.C., 18th June, 1900.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

We, the Board of Trustees, appointed by the members of Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., in annual meeting assembled, beg to report as follows:

That the securities mentioned at pages 44 and 45 of the Proceedings of the Twenty-eighth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge are still in our possession; there is no change in the amount invested and on call, \$5,847.85 (the sum of \$217.85 being at account current in Bank of B.N.A., Victoria branch), and only one change in the rate of interest, viz.: that of the Sturdy Mortgage being reduced from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 per cent. in consideration of that portion of the personal property tax, known as the "mortgage tax," having been dispensed with by the Provincial Legislature. Information of the equitable reduction of interest herein referred to was furnished to the V.W., the Grand Treasurer under the date of 1st July, 1899. There have been no receipts and only one expenditure, a small disbursement by the Chairman of \$2.40 for a tin box for the custody of securities, but which has not disturbed the balance in bank.

A renewal receipt re \$600.—Fire Insurance, dated 2nd April, 1900, for twelve months was received by us on 9th April from Mrs. Maria Louisa Sturdy and placed for safe keeping with the rest of the securities.

A communication, dated 15th May, of the current year, was received from the V.W., the Grand Treasurer, drawing our attention to the recommendation of your Finance Committee and its adoption by Grand Lodge re promissory note of B. H. John and Catherine Greenwood (\$450 at 9 per cent.) being collected; and that the first named had been notified to retire said note, together with the interest accrued on June 3rd, amounting to \$40.50, and make payment to the Trustees. Said communication was promptly and courteously acknowledged, but no payment to date hereof; nor has Mr. B. H. John put in any appearance.

The collection of interest monies upon investments by the Executive Financial Officer of Grand Lodge will doubtless appear in the detailed report of the Grand Treasurer, to whom we are indebted for an expression of opinion upon the subject of giving bonds by responsible officers, and in which we agree with him, but he is somewhat wide of the mark when he would include the Trustees selected from Grand Masters of the Craft.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

EDGAR CROW-BAKER, Chairman, WILLIAM DOWNIE, R. B. McMICKING,	}	Trustees.
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Resolved—That the reports of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Board of Trustres be referred to the Committee on Finance, to report upon at this Communication.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT NO. 1.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.:

In submitting my report on the condition of Masonry in District No. 1, and of my official doings during the past Masonic year, it gives me pleasure to state that upon assuming office I found the affairs of the three lodges in the District in a healthy condition, peace and harmony prevailing, and I am further pleased to say, continuing throughout the year, which is very gratifying.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

On September 7th, 1899. I visited Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, and had the pleasure of seeing the Fellowcraft degree conferred in a very creditable manner by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Brett.

On September 20th, I visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, where the Fellowcraft degree was also conferred in a manner reflecting great credit on the Worshipful Master and his officers.

On October 4th, I visited United Service Lodge, No. 24, where I again witnessed the conferring of the Second degree. The business of the evening being ended, we repaired to the refreshment room, where a very pleasant hour was spent in the happy manner peculiar to United Service Lodge.

On December 27th, by invitation of the Worshipful Master, I installed the officers of Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2. I was accompanied and very ably assisted by M.W.P.G.M. Bro. D. Wilson, who installed the W.M.-elect in a very pleasing manner, W. Bro. Sharp, of United Service Lodge, No. 24, Grand Director of Ceremonies, acting in that capacity in a most satisfactory manner. M.W.P.G.M. Bro. R. B. McMicking also gave valuable assistance as Grand Secretary.

Immediately following the installation ceremonies, W. Bro. A. Maxwell Muir (on behalf of the Lodge) presented the I.P.M. with a very beautiful Past Master's jewel, an honor never more worthily bestowed. W. Bro. Stallard having been a most painstaking and diligent Master. The ceremonies being completed, and the lodge closed, we repaired to the banquet-room, where a very pleasant time was spent in speech-making and songs.

January 4th, 1900, I installed the officers of Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1. In this ceremony, also, I was assisted by M.W.P.G.M.

Bro. D. Wilson and W. Bro. Sharp, Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. A. Maxwell Muir acting as Grand Secretary. I was agreeably surprised by the appearance of the R.W.D.G.M. Bro. Watson, who arrived a short time before the ceremony began, and who kindly assisted in the same by delivering the general charge. The installation being concluded with apparent satisfaction to all, the R.W.D.G.M. Master, on behalf of the lodge, presented the I.P.M., Bro. Brett, with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, accompanied by a few well-chosen remarks, which was fittingly responded to by the recipient. Our labors being ended, we adjourned to the banquet-room, where a very agreeable hour was spent.

On April 4th, I had the pleasure of accompanying the M.W.G.M. upon the occasion of an official visit to United Service Lodge, No. 24. The visit was a very enjoyable one.

On April 5th, I again attended the Grand Master, when he officially visited Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1.

On April 18th, I visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, officially, when I witnessed the conferring of the First degree, which was very well done by the W.M., Bro. F. V. Robertson,

On the following evening, April 19th, I also made an official visit to Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, when the First and Third degrees were conferred by the W.M., Bro. C. D. Mason, in a very creditable manner.

I am pleased to say that (though not now compulsory) the lodges in this District still faithfully adhere to the practice of requiring a strict examination in the work of the Master Masons degree from all candidates.

The lodges appear to have been particularly fortunate in their choice of Secretaries. Their books and papers, upon examination, presented a clean and businesslike appearance, thereby shewing the careful and efficient officer.

In consequence of the peace and harmony which has prevailed throughout the District, I am pleased to state that nothing of an unpleasant character has been brought before my notice. The lodges have been doing good work, and I believe care and good judgment have been generally exercised in the selection of candidates.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the M.W.G.M. for the honor done me in selecting me as his representative in this District, and also the officers and brethren of the different lodges for their kindly welcome, and for their respectful and courteous treatment of me whenever I have visited them, and I can only hope that my successor will have as pleasant and agreeable time as I have had.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

GEORGE GLOVER,
D.D.G.M., No. 1 District.

June 1st, 1900.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT NO 2.

*To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand
Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M. :*

The fact of my appointment to the honorable position of District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 2, was indeed a gratifying surprise, and in accepting the same, "thoroughly recognizing the grave responsibility of supervising such an important District," I determined to give this office all the attention that was, in my opinion, necessary, and that it demanded. I feel that to a certain extent I have not failed in my intentions and trust that you will be satisfied. The brethren of my own lodge (Mount Hermon, No. 7,) and our sister city lodges know that it is my habit and custom to call "a spade a spade," and no doubt expected in my official visits any failings would not be overlooked. Therefore, by them my criticisms and remarks would not be misconstrued. Those lodges, however, that were not so conversant with my nature may have imagined that I singled them out especially. I sincerely trust (as I believe has been the case) that no officer or brethren will feel that I have overstepped my duty.

At the outset I may state that it has been my privilege to visit officially all the seven lodges in my District twice, and in some cases three times. I have been received always with that true fraternal and Masonic spirit which is so dear to us as Masons, and have had many times to thank the brethren for their handsome reception of the Grand Lodge representative.

Masonry in District No. 2 has never been in a more flourishing, solid and satisfactory condition. Four out of the seven lodges are doing remarkably well, the remaining three holding their own, peace and harmony prevailing throughout.

The following synopsis of my visits and the duties performed will, I think, bear this out.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

On September the 21st, I commenced by visiting Acacia Lodge, No. 22. I found W. Bro. Frank Bowser presiding, well supported by his officers. An Entered Apprentice was examined in his knowledge and proved to be one of the brightest candidates I have ever seen, the examination being perfect and reflecting great credit on himself and examiner, Bro. Stewart. W. Bro. Bowser conferred the Second degree with precision, and was ably supported by his subordinates. The books and papers of the lodge I found in good condition and the prospects very bright. After closing the lodge a very pleasant hour was spent in the refreshment room debating what some call the Fourth degree.

On October 3rd, Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 7, received me with true Masonic greeting. I found W. Bro. W. Hogg in the East, assisted by Bro. W. J. Bowser and Bro. H. A. Bell in the West and South, respec-

tively, and a large attendance of brethren. The routine work of the lodge was admirably carried out, the degree also being conferred with that precision that Mt. Hermon is so noted for. I had to compliment the W.M. and his officers on the very satisfactory condition and grand progress they were making. I found the books in splendid condition, the finances of the lodge also in good shape. After closing down the members adjourned to the banquet-room, where refreshments were served and an entertaining programme of songs and speeches carried out.

On October 16th, I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12, W. Bro. F. Buscombe presiding. No degrees were conferred, but the routine work of the lodge showed that everything was moving with the evenness and precision necessary. The books are well kept and show considerable progress. A very pleasant hour was spent in the banquet-room, where a sumptuous repast was enjoyed by all.

On October 24th, I was present at the Grand Master's visit to Mount Hermon, No. 7.

November 1st, was an emergent meeting of Union Lodge, No. 9, New Westminster. R.W. Bro. H. H. Watson, the Deputy Grand Master, and myself paid them a joint official visit. We invited the brethren of Vancouver lodges to accompany us, and some twenty accepted our invitation. These interchanges of fraternal visits have been in vogue for some years between the lodges of New Westminster and Vancouver and are productive of much good and fraternal feeling. On this occasion we had the pleasure of meeting a number of brethren from International City Lodge, No. 79, Blaine, Washington, who were also paying a fraternal visit. The routine work of the lodge was good, the First degree being conferred by W. Bro. Brine with much credit to himself and lodge. The banquet was also a most sumptuous and pleasant one.

On November 8th, I had the honor of accompanying the M.W. Grand Master on his official visit to Cascade Lodge, No. 12.

November 19th found me visiting Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack. This little town has to be credited with one of the choicest little lodge-rooms in the Province. W. Bro. Paisley presided in the East with that ease and tact that at once proved his competency. A brother was initiated in the degree of a E.A. Mason. W. Bro. Paisley and his officers deserved and received at my hands much praise for the efficiency of their work. W. Bro. Irvine accompanied me on this visit. I found the books in good order and the finances growing. After the work the refreshments were served and a general good time closed my visit.

On December 13th, Pacific Lodge, No. 16, received my attention. Accompanied by W. Bro. Chas. Tisdall, W. Bro. McLeann, in the East. No work was performed. Election of officers took place. I found that they had spent considerable time and money in repairing and supporting the building that this Grand Lodge holds the mortgage on.

During the election of officers, the slimness of the material they had to select their officers from was painfully apparent, no less than

four Past Masters declining to hold office, for good reasons no doubt. I did not find the Treasurer's and Secretary's books in that condition that was desirable, and gave implicit instructions as to how they should at once be placed and kept.

The evening of December 19th was a most stormy and inclem nt o e, and had it not been getting so near the end of the year I should have deferred my visit to King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, New Westminster. However, W. Bro. Vanstone, with a few of his officers and members, were present, and conferred the Fellowcraft degree creditably. The books were in good condition.

On December 27th, St. John's Day, I had the honor (assisted by a large number of well-known Past Masters, hereafter named) of installing the officers of Mount Hermon Lodge, No. 7, Cascade Lodge, No. 12, and Acacia Lodge, No. 22. This was one of the most successful gatherings ever held in British Columbia, it being estimated that nearly 200 brethren were assembled, among whom were some thirty Past Masters and three or four Past Grand Masters. The imp.s ng ceremony was carried out without a hitch, and was generally credited as being one of the most enjoyable functions ever held. Much of the success was due to the kind and valuable assistance of M.W. Bro. Downie, R.W. Bros. Tisdall, Watson and Lees, W. Bros. S. N. Jarrett, F. M. Cowperthwaite, Talbot Ward, W. D. Brydone-Jack and C. H. Gatewood, to all of whom I tender my heartiest thanks. Valuable Past Master's jewels of artistic designs were presented to each of the retiring W. Masters, namely, W. Bro. W. Hogg, W. Bro. F. Buscombe and W. Bro. F. Bowser. A recherche banquet and enjoyable programme concluded the function.

On January 12th, 1900, I again had the honor of accompanying the M.W. Grand Master on an official visit to install the officers of Ionic Lodge No. 19, Chilliwack. After a very pleasing ceremony the lodge gave a banquet at the Leland Hotel, to the Grand Lodge officers. As is usual in Chilliwack, the wives, sisters and sweethearts of the brethren graced the banquet with their presence, which greatly increased the pleasure of a very enjoyable evening.

In February I received a petition from a number of brethren in Central Park, a suburb half way between New Westminster and Vancouver, to allow Mount Hermon Lodge to work a lodge of instruction in their District. This I referred to the M.W. Grand Master, who will no doubt deal with it in his report. On receiving his reply I communicated it to the brethren, nothing further having been done.

April 18th, I visited Union Lodge No. 9. Although the attendance was small W. Bro. Brine performed his duties with a neatness and despatch highly creditable. The First degree was conferred in an able manner. The books of the lodge were in a perfect condition under the well-known attention and supervision of W. Bro. DeWolf Smith.

On May 1st, at Mount Hermon, No. 7, regular meeting, I paid my second official visit. The attendance was large, the routine and degree work at once marked a progressive and successful lodge. I have the honor of being the oldest active member of Mount Hermon, having

affiliated with them over at Moodyville in 1896, and it is with pleasure that I can report their continued success. W. Bro. W. J. Bowser presided in the East, with Bros. H. A. Bell and J. T. Brown in the West and South respectively. Two candidates were examined as to their proficiency in the E.A. degree, and having passed a splendid examination were in due time passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. W. Bro. Bowser and his officers doing the degree credit, Bro. Logan's lecture being a feature.

I am satisfied that in no lodge do the W.M. and officers get better support from its members and Past Masters than Mount Hermon.

The books of the Lodge are in splendid shape. The financial standing of Mount Hermon is excellent and its prospects bright.

On May 3rd Acacia Lodge, No. 22, received my second official visit. W. Bro. McKinnon in the East. No degree work being in view I requested the W.M. to exhibit the Second degree, which was performed creditably to himself, if not to his subordinates. The books were kept in a careful manner by the Secretary, Bro. Stewart. Acacia now meeting in the Temple with Mount Hermon and Cascade have enhanced their prospects of success.

Pacific Lodge No. 16, Mission City, received a joint official visit, the Deputy Grand Master and myself attending their regular on May 9th. We found a very small attendance, some seven members (three of these being Past Masters), and two visitors. W. Bro. Catherwood in the East and Past Masters York and Bond in the West and South, neither of the Wardens being present, W. Bro. Downs acting as Secretary. We found that my instructions re keeping the books, etc., had not been carried out thoroughly, nor was the Worshipful Master too well up in his work. But the Lectures addressed to the lodge by R.W. Bro. Watson and myself, I have every reason to believe, will be productive of good. For all this Pacific, No. 16, on account of its peculiar position, deserves our sympathy. I understand the interest on their loan is fully paid up, the fire insurance policy as well, and in the hands of the Grand Lodge Trustees.

That pleasant valley on the Fraser, Chilliwack, received my next visit on May 11th, and Ionic Lodge, No. 19, was not found wanting. W. Bro. Rose occupied the East and conducted the affairs of the lodge in an able manner. A brother was examined in the work of a Fellowcraft by Immediate Past Master Paisley, in his usual masterly style, the examination reflecting much credit on both examiner and examined. W. Bro. Rose then raised the candidate to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

For a country lodge, if I may so call it, Ionic holds its own and its father, Rev. Bro. Logan, may well be proud of it. W. Bro. Paisley deserves much credit for the manner in which he conducted its business, and I have every faith that W. Bro. Rose will continue the good work, and that District No. 2 will always have one country lodge that it may be proud of.

On May 21st, I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12, officially jointly with the Deputy Grand Master. The attendance was fairly good and the routine work of the Lodge, conducted by W. Bro Hartley in a satisfactory manner. The books and papers were kept in good shape by the acting Secretary.

New Westminster was my next point, and King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, the recipient of a joint official visit. On this occasion I was accompanied by the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, W. Bros. W. J. Bowser, F. Bowser and a large number of brethren from Mount Hermon and Acacia Lodges. We found W. Bro. A. J. Brine in the East, Bro. C. C. Fisher in the West, and Past Master Boggs acting Junior Warden. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Walker, also graced the occasion. W. Bro. Brine, at my request, conferred the Second degree on a substitute and proved himself and officers fully conversant with their work. Refreshments were partaken of after closing down, bringing to a finish a most pleasant visit.

On June 20th, I attended the Grand Lodge in the Dedication Services at New Westminster.

One of the most interesting Masonic functions in District No. 2, was a Past Masters' night at Mount Hermon Lodge on February 20th, when W. Bro. Bowser (who had previously invited the Past Masters) resigned the gavel to W. Bro. McNaughton. W. Bro. Jarrett in the West and W. Bro. C. Nelson in the South, all the work (Third degree) being conducted by Past Masters, some seven or eight taking part. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors.

I have strongly recommended Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack, and Pacific Lodge, No. 16, Mission, to alter their By-Laws so as to have their installation other than on St. John's Day, in December, so that they would have a much better chance of getting the G.M., D.G.M., D.D.G.M., or some other Grand Lodge officers and Past Masters to assist in their installation ceremonies.

I have noticed that some of the Secretaries in the notice of meetings print in the name of the candidates for the ballot. This means that outside parties are made aware of candidates for Masonry, and, if some are rejected, the would-be Mason's position is made public. This, in my opinion, is objectionable, if not un-Masonic.

In concluding may I be permitted to thank the M.W.G.M. for his appointment, as he has given me one continued series of pleasant visits and greetings, also, the W.M.'s and officers of all the lodges in the District for their kind and fraternal reception.

May they all continue to prosper and dwell in peace, prosperity and harmony.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

CHARLES NELSON,

D. D. G. M., District No. 2.

June 21st, 1900.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT NO. 3.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.:

As District Deputy Grand Master of No. 3 District, I beg to submit my report on the duties performed by me during my term of office.

I regret to say that circumstances over which I had no control prevented me from visiting all the lodges in this District, although I did all in my power to obtain leave of absence to admit of visiting all of the lodges.

On December 27th, 1899, I paid an official visit to Kootenay Lodge, No. 15, and with the assistance of W. Bro. Bourne installed the officers. The W.M. and officers of Kootenay Lodge are well up in the work, I having on several occasions witnessed the conferring of the degrees, and the W.M. and officers are to be congratulated upon the able manner in which they discharged their duties.

During my term of office Mountain Lodge, No. 11, was removed from Donald to Golden, owing to the removal from Donald of the C.P.R. divisional point. From enquiry I am glad to be in a position to report that this lodge is now in a prosperous condition.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the high honor conferred on me.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

C. H. TEMPLE,

D. D. G. M., District No. 3.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT NO. 5.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M.:

I beg leave to submit my report on the condition of Masonry in District No. 5, during my term of office.

Ashlar Lodge, No. 3.—I saw this lodge confer the E.A. degree on the 22nd of July, 25th of January and 2nd of May; the F.C. degree on the 24th and 29th of November and the 2nd March; on the 7th April, the M.M. degree. I also attended some of their regular meetings. The work of this lodge is very fair, the officers appear to be attentive to their duties, and willing and anxious to make themselves proficient in their respective offices. The lodge in membership work and funds is prosperous.

Doric Lodge, No. 18.—In accordance with the suggestion of the M.W. Grand Master, and of the committee in their report on the R.W. Deputy Grand Master's address, for the amalgamation of the Ashlar and Doric Lodges, I spoke to several members of both lodges, and found some in favor, and some opposed to the union. Finding it would be useless to try and unite the lodges at the present time, I carried out my instructions received from the M.W. Grand Master, by ordering no work to be done by Doric Lodge until such time as the officers could exemplify the work in the three degrees to my satisfaction. On the 17th of July they exemplified the work very fairly, and on the following evening I installed (by dispensation) the officers for the ensuing year. The Worshipful Master is a young Mason, but is zealous and learning his duties fast.

The Senior Warden and Senior Deacon are Past Masters. I was pleased to see at their election in May, the present year, the W.M. re-elected, which I hope will bring Doric in line with the other lodges. I visited this lodge on the 19th of September and saw them confer the E.A. degree, which was very well done. On the 19th of January the F.C. degree, on the 14th of April the M.M. degree. On other occasions I witnessed degrees conferred, all of which were fairly done.

Hiram Lodge, No. 14 (Courtenay).—I visited this lodge on the 24th April and saw the Third degree exemplified, which was indifferent. On the 25th, at the request of W.M. Bro. Cairns, I exemplified the second section of the Third degree, being assisted by the W.M. of Cumberland Lodge, who acted as S.W. Several members of Cumberland Lodge drove over from Cumberland to be present with us. Hiram Lodge is situated in the Comox Valley and is largely composed of farmers, some of whom reside long distances from their hall. They appear to take a great interest in Masonry, and from what I gathered all that they require is some instruction to become perfect in the ritual.

Cumberland Lodge, No. 26.—I was accompanied on my visit to this Lodge by the W.M. of Hiram Lodge, Bro. Cairns. The lodge was working in the Third degree, when a F.C. was raised to the Sublime degree of M.M. The work pleased me; it is about the same as Ashlar, No. 3. The officers and members appear to take an interest to make themselves proficient in the work. They have a great advantage over their brethren of the sister lodge in Courtenay, being residents of the town where the lodge is situated.

St. John's Lodge, No. 21 (Wellington).—In the near future this lodge will be asking for permission to move to South Nanaimo District. This step is necessary on account of the closing of the Wellington mines, and the withdrawal of the members to the South Wellington and Extension mines.

Temple Lodge, U.D.—On the 16th of December I instituted Temple Lodge, U.D., at Duncans. There is every prospect of this lodge being a permanent one, being largely composed of farmers of the flourishing Valley of Cowichan, and residents of the Village of Duncans.

The present W.M. is that sterling old Mason, P.M. Bro. John Frame. On several occasions he has been ably assisted by brethren of Ashlar and St. John's Lodges. I visited the lodge on the 9th of June and saw the M.M. degree conferred, which on the whole was very good, more especially the first and third sections.

I have the greatest pleasure in recommending them to Grand Lodge for a charter.

On the 9th of October I accompanied the M.W. Grand Master and R.W. Grand Senior Warden on an official visit to Ashlar Lodge when the Third degree was conferred.

On the 10th of October, to St. John's Lodge, No. 21, Wellington, where we also had a visit from the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, a F.C. was raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

On the 13th of October Doric Lodge, No. 18, was visited, when a candidate was initiated into the mysteries of the E.A. degree. As the M.W. Grand Master will probably refer in his address to the work of these lodges I will make no remarks.

On the 31st of March I called the Ashlar, Doric and St. John's Lodges to meet in Ashlar lodge-room, for the purpose of allowing each lodge to give a degree in Masonry. Doric exemptified the First degree, Ashlar conferred the Second degree upon an E.A., after which St. John's raised a F.C. to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason. Several brethren of Temple Lodge, U.D., Duncans, were present. I hope that my successor in office will call the lodges together occasionally, as it is a great incentive to uniformity of work.

All of the lodges in this District have changed their Secretaries this year. One by death, the others by leaving the locality of their lodges. I consider this a great loss not only to the lodges but particularly to the W.M. and his officers, for no matter how zealous the new Secretaries may be, it will take time to thoroughly post themselves in the duties of the office.

One of the principal causes for some of our lodges in this District not being up to their work in Masonry is the fact that they are making Masters too fast—brethren aspiring and lodges electing them to the East—before they have half learned the ritual, to say nothing of the jurisprudence of Masonry. When the term expires another is elected to go through the same ordeal, for while the honor of the office is flattering to the W.M. the lodge suffers through his hurry to get to the head of his lodge. When a lodge has a real good Master it should retain him for a second term.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

WM. STEWART,

D. D. G. M., District No. 5.

Nanaimo, 20th June, 1900.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT NO. 6.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A. F. & A. M. :

I have the honor to submit the following report on District No. 6 :

My first official visit, after receiving the honor of appointment as D.D.G.M. for this District, was on November the 10th, 1890, when, accompanied by W. Bros. Chipman, Rickers and Martin, and also a number of the Kaslo brethren, I visited Sandon for the purpose of instituting Alta Lodge, No. 29. I found the books in first-class shape, the lodge very prosperous and the officers and brethren well up in the work. After the ceremony of instituting the lodge was over we were entertained in a most lavish manner by the brethren of Alta Lodge with a banquet and a very enjoyable time was spent.

On the 10th day of November, in company with Right Wor. Bro. Watson, D.G.M., I visited Kaslo Lodge, No. 25, where W. Bro. Byers exemplified the work of the first degree in a most excellent manner. The officers and brethren of this lodge have the work well in hand and the lodge is prosperous. As to books in this lodge they are always in such shape that they might well be used as models, as in W. Bro. Chipman the lodge has an excellent Secretary.

I again visited this lodge on December the 27th and installed the officers, ably assisted by W. Bro. Chipman.

On December the 12th, I visited Nelson Lodge, and th's being one of their regular meetings, I had the pleasure of being present when they elected their officers, and I must say that they are fortunate in having plenty of good material, and succeeded in electing an excellent set of officers. The books and records I found to be in first-class shape.

I regret very much that my business and other engagements prevented me from making other official visits during the year; but I can report that Masonry is in a most healthy and prosperous condition throughout the District, there being no less than six lodges working under charter and three lodges working under dispensation therein.

In conclusion I would strongly advise that the District be divided, as the territory is much too large for effective handling, and the number of lodges in the District makes it impossible for the D.D.G.M. to give them the personal attention that they require, nor can he visit them all even once within the Masonic year, without a large outlay of time, to say nothing of the expense he will incur.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

R. F. GREEN,

D. D. G. M., District No. 6.

Resolved—That the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters be referred to a special committee.

The Grand Master appointed W. Bros. W. H. Lilly, L. N. Tucker and C. C. Fisher.

The Grand Master announced that Grand Lodge would attend Divine Service on Friday evening, at Christ Church.

Grand Lodge called off till 7:30 p.m.

FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

7:30 P. M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

M. W. Bro. John Corson Smith, Past Grand Master of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, was duly presented, received with "Grand Honors," and invited to a seat in the "Grand East."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was read, and on motion adopted.

N. B.—This report is detailed under the head of Roll Call.

The report of the Committee on Charity was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Charity Committee beg to report no refund recommended in the following cases:—

Victoria-Columbia, No. 1; Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2; Mount Hermon, No. 7; Ionic, No. 19; St. John's, No. 21; North Star, No. 30, as these lodges are sufficiently strong not to require a refund from the Grand Lodge.

As regards the case presented by Mountain Lodge, in connection with Brother Jackson's illness, Committee recommend (subject to vote of Grand Lodge) a grant of \$50, to be applied to the liquidation of the nursing account. The Committee has had much difficulty in dealing with this matter, owing to the lack of information as regards the finan-

cial standing of Mountain Lodge, No. 11, there being no representative present, and the account itself being in an unsatisfactory condition. Your Committee learned from other sources that Brother Jackson is now sufficiently recovered to work, and is earning \$3 per day.

As regards the application of Cumberland, No. 26, for assistance, we recommend that Grand Lodge vote \$50.

Fraternally submitted,

H. J. RAYMER,	} Committee.
W. O. MILLER,	
C. ENSOR SHARP,	

Resolved—That the report of the Committee be adopted, and the appropriations recommended authorized.

The report of the Committee on Petitions and Grievances was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND GRIEVANCES

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee on Petitions and Grievances, to whom were referred the papers in connection with the petitions for charters from Cranbrook Lodge, U.D., situated at Cranbrook; Ymir Lodge, U.D., situated at Ymir; Temple Lodge, U.D., situated at Duncans; Fidelity Lodge, U.D., situated at Trail, beg to report that we have carefully examined the papers in connection with each of these petitions, and find them in order, and recommend that the charters asked for be granted.

In the matter of Adam Thompson, we are of opinion that the petition for restoration be not entertained at the present time.

Fraternally submitted,

CHARLES E. TISDALL,	} Committee.
B. S. ODDY,	
E. E. CHIPMAN,	

Resolved—That the report be adopted, and suggestions acted on.

The report of Committee on Printing and Chartered Lodges was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND CHARTERED LODGES.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee on Printing and Chartered Lodges beg to report as follows:—

Immediately after our return from the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Kamloops, we proceeded to get in order the work of issuing Grand Lodge Proceedings. Tenders were called for the work, which was let to the "News-Advertiser" Printing Company at the figure of \$1.35 per page. Some delay in the issuing the Proceedings was caused by the printers running out of material.

We have examined the returns of the various chartered lodges, and find them, for the most part, correct and neat. Several lodges neglected to send in their returns and dues on time, and a few have had to be returned by the Grand Secretary for correction, thus materially delaying the making up of his report to Grand Lodge.

The following lodges sent their returns and dues within the time limit:—

Ashlar, No. 3; Cariboo, No. 4; Union, No. 9; Kamloops, No. 10; Spallumcheen, No. 13; Doric, No. 18; Ionic, No. 19; Acacia, No. 22; Nelson, No. 23; United Service, No. 24; Kaslo, No. 25; Alta, No. 29.

Those late in arriving were:

Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2; Mount Hermon, No. 7; Mountain, No. 11; Cascade, No. 12; Hiram, No. 14; Kootenay, No. 15; Pacific, No. 16; King Solomon, No. 17; Miriam, No. 20; St. John's, No. 21; Cumberland, No. 26; Greenwood, No. 29; Corinthian, No. 27; North Star, No. 30.

Returns from the following lodges were neat and correct in every respect:—

Victoria-Columbia, No. 1; Ashlar, No. 3; Mount Hermon, No. 7; Union, No. 9; Mountain, No. 11; Cascade, No. 12; Hiram, No. 14; Kootenay, No. 15; King Solomon, No. 17; Miriam, No. 20; United Service, No. 24; Kaslo, No. 25; Cumberland, No. 26; Greenwood, No. 28; Alta, No. 29.

Returns from the following were more or less incorrect, and not as neat as they might have been:—

Cariboo, No. 4; Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2; Kamloops, No. 10; Pacific, No. 16; Doric, No. 18; Ionic, No. 19; St. John's, No. 21 (full of erasures); Corinthian, No. 27; North Star, No. 30; Spallumcheen, No. 13.

One of the principal errors in the returns is the neglect of Secretaries to return the full names of new members. This is a point of some importance, as it affects the completeness of the Grand Lodge Register.

We call especial attention to the following lodges as having been correct in this respect:

Union, No. 9; Spallumcheen, No. 13; Pacific, No. 16; St. John's, No. 21; Cumberland, No. 26.

We beg to repeat and emphasize the following suggestion made by this Committee last year, namely, that some action be taken by this Grand Lodge to enforce both a more careful report and an earlier return of the same by the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge, and that those Secretaries whose reports are incorrect or late be informed of the inconvenience they have caused.

We would suggest that a penalty of \$5 be inflicted upon any Lodge whose returns arrive later than the date specified in the Constitution.

We also desire to repeat the request that the Secretaries be careful to send in, if possible, the names of all new members in full.

Fraternally submitted,

F. M. COWPERTHWAIT, E.	} Committee.
W. A. DEWOLF SMITH,	
C. H. GATEWOOD,	

Resolved—That the thanks of Grand Lodge be tendered the Committee on the completeness of their report; that the same be adopted, save that clause imposing a fine on Lodge Secretaries, which is hereby eliminated.

The report of the Committee on Canadian Ritual was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO RE-ARRANGE THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE CANADIAN RITUAL.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee appointed at the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to re-arrange the opening and closing ceremonies of the Canadian Ritual beg to report:—

That they have given the matter considerable attention and are of opinion that no change should be made.

Fraternally submitted,

HARRY H. WATSON,	} Committee.
SIMON J. TUNSTALL,	
GEO. JOHNSTONE,	

Resolved—That the report be received, adopted, and the Committee discharged.

The report of the Committee on Constitution was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

The Committee on Constitution beg leave to offer the following recommendations, in reference to the suggestions made by Most Worshipful Brother Wilson in his address last year re the Charity Fund. That section 90 of the Constitution be repealed and the following enacted:

Section 90. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Charity to carefully examine and report upon all documents and matters referred to them by the Grand Secretary or Grand Lodge relating to or arising under the article on Charity Fund of this Constitution.

That section 133, sub-section (a) thereof and all the rules thereunder, be repealed and the following enacted:—

THE CHARITY FUND.

Section 133. The Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge shall consist of such sums as may be derived from the distribution of the late Fund of Benevolence, together with any donations which may from time to time be given to charity, and shall be regularly augmented by an annual proportion at the rate of ten per cent. of all monies paid by subordinate Lodges under authority of section 148 of this Constitution.

(a) The fund shall be kept separate from the ordinary funds of the Grand Lodge and shall be in the custody of the Grand Treasurer and the same shall be disposed of, subject to the following rules:—

1st. It shall be devoted to the relief of distressed worthy brothers of this Jurisdiction in good standing, the widow or orphans of any such brother deceased, and to transient brethren of sister Jurisdictions providing they are in good standing and have contributed to a lodge within the twelve months preceding their application for relief.

2nd. The Secretaries of Lodges shall forward to the Grand Secretary with the Grand Lodge returns a list of relief granted in pursuance of the preceding rule, which shall be referred to the Committee on Charity to examine, report thereon and recommend such refunds as they may deem proper and submit same to the Grand Lodge before the close of each Annual Session.

3rd. The representatives of Lodges shall present any special case or application for relief for the consideration of Grand Lodge, or in urgent cases when Grand Lodge is not in session to the Charity Committee, who may grant such sum as they may deem necessary, not exceeding twenty-five dollars at one time.

4th. All sums ordered to be paid by Grand Lodge, either as special grants or refunds shall immediately after annual session of Grand Lodge be so paid by the Grand Treasurer to the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge or person designated.

5th. The amount refunded to any Lodge upon relief granted to members thereof shall not exceed twenty-five per cent. of the Grand Lodge dues paid by said Lodge, unless by special vote in the Grand Lodge.

6th. The amount of refunds paid by the Grand Treasurer to all the lodges shall not exceed the annual income of the Charity Fund for the year for which said sums are granted. Should the aggregate of all sums ordered to be paid exceed the revenue of the Charity Fund the payments shall be made pro rata.

Fraternally submitted,

F. McB. YOUNG,

On behalf of the Committee on Constitution.

Resolved—That report be adopted, tabled; and entered in annual summons for next year for final consideration.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Finance Committee beg to report that we have examined the books, papers and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and find the same correct in all particulars. We find on checking the returns from subordinate lodges with the Grand Secretary's books no entry of the following items, viz:—

From Ymir Lodge, for warrant	\$75 00
From Fidelity Lodge, for warrant	75 00
From Temple Lodge, for warrant	75 00
From Temple Lodge for M.M. Diplomas	12 00
From Cranbrook Lodge, for M.M. Diplomas	10 00
From Cranbrook Lodge, for warrant	75 00

\$322 00

Otherwise we find the accounts correct and recommend that in future all monies received by the Grand Secretary should be entered in his books as received by him.

We find the cash received, inclusive of the balance carried forward last year, is \$5,531.08, which does not include the sum of \$322, above referred to.

The amount expended is as follows:—

Grand Secretary's salary	\$600 00
Printing	618 75
Grand Treasurer	25 00
Stationery, postage, etc.	106 25
Premium Treasurer's bond	20 00
Rent Grand Secretary's Office in Victoria	50 00
Vote to Foreign Correspondence Committee	75 00
Ten per cent., income to Charity Fund	338 95
Grand Tyler, including travelling expenses	40 00
Stamps and seals, five new Lodges	20 00
Insurance on Grand Lodge Regalia	9 50
Exchange	4 65
Entertaining Grand Lodge at Kamloops	150 00
	\$2,058 10
Leaving a balance in Merchants' Bank of Halifax.....	3,472 98
	\$5,531 08

We note that the expenditure exceeded the estimates by \$227.10, which is accounted for by the increase in printing and charity fund.

The balance of cash carried forward is \$3,472.98, an increase over last year of \$1,331.40.

The revenue from all sources is.....	\$3,389 50
An increase of	995 50
Liabilities unknown, or nil.	

CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT.

We have checked the items of receipts and disbursements with the bank book and found the same to be correct.

RECEIPTS.

Interest on investments	\$412 02
Repayment account, grant re New Westminster fire.....	135 00
Ten per cent of gross revenue of Grand Lodge	338 95
Total.....	\$885 97

showing an increase of revenue from investments of \$161.52, and from the 10 per cent. of Grand Lodge income of \$99.55.

Your Finance Committee note with satisfaction that over 25 per cent. of the relief granted to sufferers from the New Westminster fire has been returned.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Refunds Charity	\$ 45 50
Grant to sufferers New Westminster fire	500 00
Legal expenses	5 00
Grand Treasurer's salary	25 00
Taxes on mortgages and exchange	10 35
Total.....	\$585 85

An increase of \$76 over last year.

Investments as per Trustees' Report.....\$5,847 85

Interest outstanding:—

Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, due 26th June, 1900..\$126 00

B. H. Johns and Catherine Greenwood, due 5th June,

1900 40 50

P. J. Davis (interest payable monthly, 9 months in

arrears) 68 85

Pacific Lodge (10 months in arrears) 27 10

262 45

Cash balance in bank\$708 57

Cash in Treasurer's hands 31 43

800 00

\$6,910 30

An increase of \$385.51. Liabilities unknown, or nil.

Your Finance Committee have eliminated from the Treasurer's books the invested funds in the hands of the Trustees.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Charity Fund	\$6,910 30	Invested by	
Current Account	3,472 98	Trustees....	\$5,630 00
		Deposit Bank	
		B. N. A....	217 85
		— — — —	\$5,847 85
		Int. overdue..	262 45
		Cash deposit:	
		Mer. Bank of Halifax..	
		Charity Fund	\$708 57
		Cash in Treas.	
		hands....	31 43
		— — — —	800 00
		Cash Bk. of Hamilton:	
		General Account....	3,472 98
		— — — —	
	\$10,383 26		\$10,383 28

REMARKS.

We note the irregular manner in which the payment of interest is made on some of the investments and recommend that the Charity Funds be re-invested in Municipal or Government bonds as the opportunity offers.

We note in the returns of Pacific Lodge, No. 16, that their real estate is valued at over \$1,600, and we think that with a property of such a value they should have no difficulty in raising the money past due to this Grand Lodge.

We note, with pleasure, the provisions made by the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the Committees preparing their reports, and regret that your Committee on assembling at the hour stated, were not put in possession of the necessary documents to avail themselves of these provisions.

We fully endorse the remarks of the Grand Treasurer with regard to the Johns-Greenwood note, and recommend that, if the same be not paid at an early date, it be put into the hands of a solicitor for collection.

We recommend that inasmuch as P. J. Davis has failed to comply with the terms of his mortgage, foreclosure proceedings should be taken forthwith.

With reference to the Grand Treasurer's remarks, regarding the augmentation of the Charity Fund, your Committee hope to be able to recommend after the estimates for the ensuing year have been made out, that a substantial portion of the General Fund be transferred to the Charity Fund.

We attach hereto an account from R. H. Swinerton for \$170 for compiling Proceedings of Grand Lodge; inasmuch as no provision was made in last year's estimates for this amount, and as we have no explanation thereof, we beg to submit it for instructions.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

H. N. RICH, GEO. JOHNSTONE, T. J. ARMSTRONG,	} Committee.
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Resolved—That the report be adopted, and the various recommendations submitted; carried out.

The report of the committee on Addresses of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ADDRESSES OF GRAND MASTER AND DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee appointed to consider the addresses of the M. W. the Grand Master and the R. W. the Deputy Grand Master, beg to submit the following report:

We are pleased to infer from the general tenor of the Grand Master's address that the year has been characterized by peace and harmony throughout the jurisdiction.

We echo the sentiments of the Grand Master regarding the fraternal dead of this and other jurisdictions and suggest that suitable memorial pages be inserted in the printed report of the proceedings of Grand Lodge.

We learn with the utmost satisfaction that our relations with foreign jurisdictions continue to be of the most harmonious character. With regard to the newly organized Grand Lodge of Western Australia, not having any official information before us, we do not feel that we are in a position to express any opinion.

Respecting the case of invasion of jurisdiction reported from Rossland, we record our surprise that any lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada should have been guilty of such an infraction of Masonic law and usage as seems to have taken place; commend the Grand Master for the prompt and energetic action taken in the matter, and express the hope that the difference may be amicably adjusted at an early date. It is a matter for regret that the information necessary to enable the Grand Master to deal with this case was not more promptly forwarded to him by the Grand Secretary.

We fully concur with the views expressed regarding representatives of foreign jurisdictions near this Grand Lodge, but are unable to suggest any means whereby this system may be improved.

While rejoicing in the prospect of a speedy and successful termination of the great struggle for liberty and truth now being waged in South Africa, we join with the Grand Master in extending heartfelt sympathy to our brethren and those associated with them in that struggle, and recommend Grand Lodge to make a grant of \$100 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

We beg to commend the diligence displayed by the Grand Master in paying official visits to the subordinate lodges, and feel confident that these visits must have been productive of much good. We consider his remarks with regard to the systematic visitation and efficient supervision of subordinate lodges to be not only well timed, but also exceedingly valuable.

The question of the payment of the travelling expenses of the Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Masters in making such official visits, we commend to the careful consideration of Grand Lodge itself.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master, we recommend that No. 6 Masonic District be divided into three as follows: No. 6 District to include Rossland Ridings of West Kootenay District; No. 7 to include Nelson and Sloean Ridings of West Kootenay District; No. 8 to include South-East Kootenay District.

We congratulate the brethren of New Westminster on the energy displayed by them in the erection of the New Masonic Temple, which we learn was dedicated by the Grand Master at a Special Communication of Grand Lodge held on the 20th instant.

The decisions of the M.W. Grand Master, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, appear to us to be both correct and sensible. With the conclusion arrived at in No. 5 (which deals with the question of receiving applications for membership at emergency meetings), we are unable to agree, although it is only by inference in interpreting section 223, together with a knowledge of the universal Masonic practice in such cases that we are led to express dissent. In connection with this matter, we beg to express our approval of the Grand Master's suggestion that the difficulty experienced in the United Service Lodge with regard to applications for membership be referred to the Committee on Constitution, with the view of having a clause inserted in our Constitution

similar to the clause quoted by the Grand Master from the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, such clause, however, to be applicable only to members of the Army and Navy.

We heartily endorse the position taken by the Grand Master on the question of the incorporation of subordinate lodges.

We recommend that the suggestion of the Grand Master regarding the amendment to section 204 of the Constitution be referred to the Committee on Constitution.

The suggestion of the Grand Master with respect to the compilation of official rulings by successive Grand Masters, we consider an admirable one, and would recommend that they be printed in such form that they may be inserted by each member in his copy of the Constitution.

We beg to express our concurrence with the action of the Grand Master in granting dispensations as recorded.

We beg to commend the Grand Master for his business like procedure in having all standing Committees called to meet in ample time to enable them to have their reports ready for the meeting of Grand Lodge. We also approve of his suggestion with reference to the investment of Grand Lodge funds, and recommend it to the careful consideration of the Finance Committee and the Trustees of Grand Lodge property.

The remarks of the Grand Master, regarding "Grand Lodge Records and Library" seem to us of the very highest importance, but inasmuch as any complete and satisfactory method of dealing with this subject would involve the selection of a permanent place of meeting for Grand Lodge, and the election to the office of Grand Secretary of a brother residing in that place, your Committee does not feel disposed to make any recommendation. It is recommended, however, that a small sum be expended annually in binding the proceedings of foreign Grand Lodges, and that a small reference library be procured for the official use of successive Grand Masters.

We are in fullest accord with the idea of perpetuating the memory of our departed brother, the Right Reverend A. W. Sillitoe by a memorial window in Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster, and beg to recommend that the sum of \$50 be voted towards the cost of the same.

In conclusion we desire to congratulate our Most Worshipful Brother upon the energy and ability which he has brought to the discharge of the duties of his exalted office, as well as upon the excellence of the address submitted to Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master is also to be congratulated upon having such an energetic and efficient Deputy. We consider that it was most fortunate that when the Grand Master was unable to visit the lodges in the Interior he was so ably represented by Right Worshipful Brother Watson. We heartily commend the zeal for the welfare of the Institution displayed by the Deputy Grand Master in dealing with Pacific Lodge No. 16, and the trouble he took to place the affairs of that lodge

in a more satisfactory condition. The attention of the Trustees is hereby called to the Deputy Grand Master's recommendation that the mortgage on the building owned by that lodge be gradually reduced.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

E. D. McLAREN, D. WILSON, W. A. DEWOLF SMITH,	} Committee.
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Resolved—That the report be considered in detail.

The subjects were thereupon dealt with *seriatim*, meeting with unanimous approval, save the following :

1. Re clause relating to the payment of travelling expenses to the Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Masters.

Resolved—That this clause be adopted, but Grand Lodge does not consider it advisable to adopt the recommendation of the Grand Master at this time.

2. Re clause relating to the rulings of the Grand Master.

Resolved—That the clause be adopted, but that the ruling of the Grand Master relating to the acceptance of Petitions at Emergent Meetings be granted to United Service Lodge, No. 24, as far as applicants who belong to the Army or Navy, until suitable legislation can be adopted.

Resolved—That the entire report be adopted as amended.

The report of the committee on the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia :

We, the Committee, to whom has been referred the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters beg to report as follows:—

It is apparent from all the reports that the District Deputy Grand Masters have earnestly striven to do the work assigned to them. It is to be regretted, however, that in some instances, owing to the great distances to be covered and the expense involved, the work has not been accomplished in such a manner as to give unqualified satisfaction to the Grand Lodge.

We would earnestly recommend that the division of District No. 6, so strongly advised by Right Worshipful Brother Green, be carried out.

It is extremely gratifying to note that in all the reports there are abundant signs of progress as indicated by the formation of new lodges, increase of membership, healthy state of finances, and also by the efficient manner in which the work of the various degrees has been exemplified.

Your Committee would strongly emphasize the importance of that feature of the reports, which refers to fraternal visits where practicable, as tending to promote the highest interests of our Ancient Order, illustrating as it does in an eminent degree one of the most fundamental principles of Free Masonry.

We beg to endorse the objection urged by Right Worshipful Brother Nelson in regard to the names of candidates for the ballot appearing in print.

In conclusion, your Committee respectfully suggest that the brethren throughout the Jurisdiction should emulate the example of that country lodge which received such honorable mention in one of the reports in that "the wives, sisters and sweethearts of the brethren graced the banquet with their presence."

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. H. LILLY, L. NORMAN TUCKER, C. C. FISHER,	}	Committee.
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Resolved—That the report be adopted.

The report of the committee on Foreign Correspondence was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence beg to submit here-with their annual review of the Proceedings of the various Grand Lodges which have been placed in their hands, and to request that it be printed.

Fraternally submitted.

W. A. DE WOLF SMITH, LACEY R. JOHNSON,	}	Committee.
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Resolved—That the report be received with thanks, and printed with the review supplied on Sister Grand Lodges.

The M. W. Grand Master then called upon M. W. Bro. John C. Smith to address Grand Lodge.

The celebrated brother complied, and gave a most interesting account of Masonry as practiced in Egypt and other Oriental countries, and many episodes of his personal experiences enjoyed while travelling in foreign lands.

On the conclusion of M. W. Bro. Smith's speech, the Grand Master and many others expressed their delight at being present to hear the distinguished brother.

Resolved—That the thanks of Grand Lodge are hereby tendered M. W. Bro. Smith for the instruction and pleasure afforded.

Grand Lodge called off.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

10:30 A.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters were read from R. W. Bro. Wm. Stewart, D.D. G.M., No. 5 District, and others, regretting inability to attend the Communication.—(Ordered filed.)

A communication was read from W. Bro. DeWolf Smith, submitting amendments to the Constitution.—Referred to the Committee on Constitution to report at this Communication.

A communication from the same brother, requesting a ruling on mode of procedure.

Vancouver, B.C., 21st June, 1900.

I beg to submit the following questions, with a request that they be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for a ruling:—

1st. An applicant takes the Entered Apprentice degree and fails to present himself for advancement. Is there any limit to the time during which he may be kept on the books as a quasi member of the Lodge?

2nd. A member of the lodge removes from the jurisdiction of the lodge without leaving any address. How long should he be returned to the Grand Lodge as a member?

W. A. DEWOLF SMITH.

Referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence to report at this Communication.

A bill from J. P. Geddes, services as stenographer, etc., at 29th Communication, \$13.75.

A bill from Robert H. Swinnerton, transcribing minutes, \$170.00.

(Bills ordered paid.)

MONEY GRANTS.

The Finance Committee brought down their Estimate of Expenditure for year 1900-1901.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE.

Vancouver, June 23, 1900.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:

In accordance with section 86, clause B of the Constitution, your Finance Committee have the honor to report an estimate of expenditure for the current year as follows:

Postage, exchange and incidentals	\$ 100 00
Secretary's salary	600 00
Printing Proceedings Grand Lodge	600 00
Printing Grand Master's Rulings.....	\$ 20
Printing office forms	100
Printing M. M. diplomas	275
	395 00
Writing and compiling Minute Book	170 00
Binding Library (and procuring reference library and periodicals))	100 00
Rent Library	50 00
Committee on Foreign Correspondence	75 00
Seals and books for new Lodges	150 00
Grand Treasurer	25 00
Grand Treasurer's bond	20 00
Grand Tyler and expenses	50 00
Insurance and exchange	25 00
Stenographer	15 00
Two sets D. D. G. M. Regalia	75 00
Donation Canadian Patriotic Fund	100 00
Donation Sillitoe Memorial Window	50 00
Ten per cent. Charity Fund	400 00
	\$3,000 00
Funds available 'n this account	\$3,472 98
Estimated revenue on this account	4,000 00

CHARITY FUND.

Mountain Lodge (relief Jackson)	\$ 50 00
Cumberland Lodge (Walker)	50 00
Grand Treasurer salary	25 00
	\$125 00

Estimated income under this head \$962.00, made up as follows:
 Past due interest, \$262; interest current year, \$300; 10 per cent., \$400.

We recommend the sum of \$250 be transferred from General Fund to Charity Fund, and that the Trustees be requested to invest this amount, together with other funds available, in securities as recommended in our report of June 21st, 1900.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

H. N. RICH,
 GEO. JOHNSTONE, } Committee.
 T. J. ARMSTRONG, }

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed M.W. Bros. Lacey R. Johnson and E. D. McLaren as scrutineers.

GRAND LODGE POLL.

		Votes,			Votes.
Lodge No. 1.....	4		Lodge No. 18	4	
" " 2.....	6		" " 19.....	5	
" " 3.....	4		" " 20.....	3	
" " 4.....	2		" " 21.....	3	
" " 7.....	9		" " 22.....	3	
" " 9.....	7		" " 23.....	7	
" " 10.....	5		" " 24.....	4	
" " 11.....	2		" " 25.....	6	
" " 12.....	15		" " 26.....	2	
" " 14.....	1		" " 27.....	5	
" " 15.....	2		" " 28.....	3	
" " 16.....	2		" " 29.....	4	
" " 17.....	6		" " 30.....	1	
	65			50	

The result of the election was:

M. W. Bro. Harry H. Watson, Cascade Lodge, No. 12.....	Grand Master
R. " " Fred. McB. Young, Doric Lodge, No. 18....	Deputy Grand Master
" " " E. E. Chipman, Kaslo Lodge, No. 25.....	Sr. Grand Warden
" " " C. Ensor Sharp, United Service Lodge, No. 24..	Jr. Grand Warden
V. " " Rev. E. P. Flewelling, Kamloops Lodge, No. 10..	Grand Chaplain
" " " Arch. B. Erskine, Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2..	Gr. Treasurer
" " " Walter J. Quinlan, Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1....	Gr. Secretary
" " " E. Hosker, Cascade Lodge, No. 12	Grand Tyler

RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The representatives of Sister Grand Lodges were called upon by the Grand Master and welcomed to the Annual Communication, and received with "Grand Honors."

Grand Lodge called off.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

2:30 P.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted a report on the question given by W. Bro. DeWolf Smith.

After discussion, it was

Resolved—That from the fact of there being a difference of opinion as to the proper solution of Bro. DeWolf Smith's first question the matter be referred to the incoming Committee on Jurisprudence, to report at the next Annual Communication.

The Committee on Constitution submitted a supplementary report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

Vancouver, B. C., 22nd June, 1900.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge:

Your Committee on Constitution beg to submit the following report:

1. We recommend that the proposed amendments to Sec. 190 and Sec. 204 be not entertained. These amendments are as follows:

1st. To amend Sec. 190 by adding the following:

And neither the said fee, nor any portion of it, shall be returned, remitted or donated in any way to the applicant.

So that the said Section will read:

Sec. 190. No Lodge shall confer the three degrees for a less fee than fifty dollars, of which at least ten dollars shall accompany

every application for membership, else such application shall not be received. And neither the said fee, nor any portion of it, shall be returned, remitted or donated in any way to the applicant.

2nd. To amend Sec. 204 by striking out the last two lines of the Section and adding in place thereof the following :

Therein, thereby becomes a member of the Lodge and shall thereupon sign the By-laws, but this shall not apply in cases where the degrees have been conferred at the request of another Lodge.

So that the Section will read :

Sec. 204. None but Master Masons can be members of a Lodge, or vote upon any subject. Every brother whose application has been favorably received in a Lodge, and who receives the Master Mason's degree therein, thereby becomes a member of the Lodge and shall thereupon sign the By-laws; but this shall not apply in cases where the degrees have been conferred at the request of another Lodge.

2. That the following Section be added to the Constitution :

(223a). In cases of emergency the following course may be pursued. Any two members of a Lodge, may transmit in writing to the Master of the Lodge, the name, age, profession or occupation and place of abode of any candidate they may wish to propose; and the circumstances which cause the emergency. If in the opinion of the Master the emergency be real, he shall notify the proposition to every member of his Lodge, either in the summons for the next regular meeting, or in a summons for a lodge of emergency to meet at a period not less than seven days from the issuing of the summons. If the candidate be then approved on the ballot, he may be initiated. The Master shall previously to the ballot being taken, read the proposition and state to the Lodge the cause of emergency, which shall be recorded in the minutes. This Section shall apply only to members of the Royal Navy and Army on active service.

Fraternally submitted,

F. McB. YOUNG,	} Committee.
W. J. BOWSER,	
WM. DOWNIE,	

Resolved—That the report of the Committee be adopted, tabled and placed on the summons for the next Annual Communication for final action.

The M. W. Grand Master states that Grand Lodge shall again be called to labor at 7:30, for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Grand Lodge called off.

SECOND DAY—EVENING SESSION.

AT GRAND LODGE.

The Grand Master called upon the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form procession, when the officers and members of Grand Lodge and many visitors, proceeded to Christ Church. The V. W. Grand Chaplain conducted the services and discoursed an impressive sermon. On the completion of the service Grand Lodge resumed labor.

Resolved—That the offertory be donated to the choir of Christ Church for their very efficient services, and that the thanks of Grand Lodge be tendered the Rector, Church Wardens and members for the courtesy extended.

The representatives from the Lodges of the City of Vancouver stated that a banquet had been prepared by them at the Hotel Vancouver, to which they cordially invited the members of Grand Lodge and any visiting brethren, and requested that Grand Lodge be called off in order to attend the same.

This being done, the Grand Officers, members and visitors availed themselves of the hospitality so courteously tendered. The Masons of Vancouver have long had an enviable reputation as hosts, suffice it to say on this occasion they even excelled themselves. Many brilliant speeches were made during the evening, the "gem" being an address by M. W. Bro. John C. Smith, P. G. M., of Illinois.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

10 A.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

The Grand Master called upon M. W. Bro. D. Wilson to act as Installing Grand Officer, with W. Bro. DeWolf Smith as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The officers, elected and appointed, installed in Ample Form, were:

	Name.	Lodge.	Rank.
M. W. Bro.	Harry H. Watson....	Cascade,	No. 12...Grand Master.
R. " "	Fred. McB. Young...	Doric	" 18. Dep. Grand Master.
" " "	E. E. Chipman.....	Kaslo	" 25. Sr. Grand Warden.
" " "	C. Ensor Sharp.....	United Service	" 24. Jr. Grand Warden.
V. " "	Rev. E. P. Flewelling.	Kamloops	" 10. Grand Chaplain.
" " "	*Arch. B. Erskine....	Vanc.-Quadra	" 2. " Treasurer.
" " "	Walter J. Quinlan...	Vic.-Columbia	" 1.. " Secretary.
" " "	E. Hosker.....	Cascade	" 12.. " Tyler.

APPOINTED.

R. W. Bro.	*H. L. Salmon.....	Vic.-Columbia	No. 1..	D. D. G. M.	No. 1	Dist.
" " "	F. Bowser	Acacia	" 22..	"	" 2	"
" " "	*Leonard Norris.....	Miriam	" 20..	"	" 3	"
" " "	*James Stone	Cariboo	" 4.	"	" 4	"
" " "	*Mark Bate.....	Ashlar	" 3..	"	" 5	"
" " "	*John Hamilton	Nelson	" 23..	"	" 6	"
" " "	H. J. Raymer.....	Corinthian	" 27..	"	" 7	"
" " "	*Geo. L. Morrow....	Cranbrook	" 34..	"	" 8	"
W. Bro.	Geo. Johnstone.....	Nelson	" 23	Sr. Grand Deacon.		
" " "	T. J. Armstrong	King Solomon	" 17..	Jr. " "		
" " "	Geo. Brine	Union	" 9..	Grand Supt. of Works.		
" " "	A. Maxwell Muir	Vanc.-Quadra	" 2.	G. Dir. of Ceremonies.		
" " "	W. J. Bowser.....	Mount Hermon	" 7..	Grand Marshal.		
" " "	*D. Stephenson.....	St. John's	" 21..	" Sword Bearer.		
" " "	I. M. Bernard.....	Alta,	" 29	" Stand. Bearer.		
" " "	Geo. Herring.....	Corinthian	" 27..	" Organist.		
" " "	Thos. Jones	Ashlar	" 3..	" Pursuivant.		
" " "	*W. A. Rose.....	Ionic	" 19..	Grand Stewards.		
" " "	*A. W. Black	Greenwood	" 28..			
" " "	Wm. Hogg.....	Mount Hermon	" 7..			
" " "	C. A. Procunier	North Star	" 30..			
" " "	Geo. T. Mallory.....	Kamloops	" 10..			
" " "	J. T. Brown.....	Mount Hermon	" 7..			

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

W. Bro.	W. A. DeWolf Smith	Union Lodge, No. 9
M. " "	Lacey R. Johnson	Cascade Lodge No. 12
" " "	Jas. Munro Miller.....	Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2

FINANCE.

W. Bro.	H. N. Rich.....	Union Lodge, No. 9
" " "	Fred. Buscombe.....	Cascade Lodge, No. 12
" " "	George Johnstone.....	Nelson Lodge, No. 23

* Not present for Installation.

JURISPRUDENCE.

M. W. Bro. E. D. McLaren.....	Cascade Lodge, No. 12
R. " " Peter Grant.....	Union Lodge, No. 9
M. " " D. Wilson	Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2

PETITIONS AND GRIEVANCES.

W. Bro. Wm. Stewart	Ashlar Lodge, No. 3
" " E. Stuart Wood.....	Kamloops Lodge, No. 10
" " C. E. Tisdall.....	Cascade Lodge, No. 12

PRINTING AND CHARTERED LODGES.

W. Bro. F. M. Cowperthwaite.....	Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 7
" " W. A. DeWolf Smith	Union Lodge, No. 9
" " C. H. Gatewood	Cascade Lodge, No. 12

CHARITY.

M. W. Bro. A. McKeown.....	Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1
" " A. C. Muir.....	United Service Lodge, No. 24
" " R. E. Brett.....	Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1

CONSTITUTION.

M. W. Bro. Wm. Downie.....	Cascade Lodge, No. 12
" " " R. B. McMicking.....	Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2
R. " " Fred. McB. Young.....	Doric Lodge, No. 18

Grand Lodge called off.

THIRD DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 P. M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.—NEW BUSINESS.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

By W. Bro. C. E. Sharp :

That Section 148 be amended by adding the words, "which shall include a Certificate of Registration if applied for," to sub-Section 13 thereof.

Resolved—That the proposed amendment be adopted, and that the Grand Secretary procure a suitable certificate for the purpose.

By W. Bro. E. C. Arthur :

That Section 12 be amended by striking out the words after "summons" in the second line to the word "year" in the fourth line, and substituting therefor the words, "on the first Thursday in May of each year."

The amendment being put to Grand Lodge, was declared lost.

Resolved—That Warrants be granted to those Lodges now under Dispensation, as recommended by the Committee on Petitions.

To Ymir Lodge Ymir, as No. 31
 " Fidelity Lodge Trail, as No. 32
 " Temple Lodge Duncans, as No. 33
 " Cranbrook Lodge Cranbrook, as No. 34

And that the Grand Secretary procure fittings as specified in Constitution.

Resolved—That M. W. Bro. Wm. Downie and the Grand Secretary be a committee to cable congratulations to H. R. H. The Prince of Wales, on success of British Arms and prospects of peace.

Resolved—That M. W. Bro. D. Wilson and W. Bro. De Wolf Smith be a special committee to procure a suitable reference library for the use of the Grand Master while in office.

Resolved—That the thanks of Grand Lodge be tendered the Lodges of the city, and that as a mark of regard, the illuminated address so kindly presented be suitably framed and placed as a memento in the Masonic Temple, Vancouver.

Resolved—That the thanks of Grand Lodge be tendered the V. W. Grand Chaplain, and that a copy of the sermon be requested for publication in the Proceedings.

The question of the removal of the archives of Grand Lodge to Vancouver was discussed.

Resolved—That inasmuch as the prospects for a permanent meeting place of Grand Lodge in the near future are evident, they be allowed to remain in Victoria pending such action.

PLACE OF MEETING.

Resolved—That the Thirtieth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge be held in the City of Nelson.

In amendment, that the next meeting be held in the City of Victoria.

Original motion prevails.

No further business appearing, Grand Lodge, after a benediction by the V. W. Grand Chaplain, was closed in Ample Form, and so proclaimed in prescribed form.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secretary

A SERMON

Delivered before the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., British
Columbia, at the Twenty-ninth Annual Communication,
City of Vancouver,

By V. W. E. P. FLEWELLING, Grand Chaplain.

I. Kings viii, parts of verses 15, 21 and 22: "He cast two pillars of brass . . . and he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple; and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin; and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz. And upon the top of the pillars was lily-work; so was the work of the pillars finished."

There is perhaps no building of the ancient world which has excited so much attention since the time of its destruction as the temple which Solomon built at Jerusalem, and as re-built by Herod. Its spoils were considered worthy of forming the principal illustration of one of the most beautiful of Roman triumphal arches. And Jus inian's highest architectural ambition was that he might surpass it.

Throughout the Middle Ages the temple influenced to a considerable degree the form of Christian churches; and its peculiarities were the watchwords and rallying points of all associations of builders.

It is altogether needless to speak to members of the Order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the place the Temple of Solomon occupies in the work of the Lodge-room, or in the thoughts of Free Masons. Each one knows this for himself. But to others, let me say that many parts of the grand and magnificent temple at Jerusalem are pictured before the mind of both the newly-initiated, and the long time Free Mason, and this in no idle or unmeaning ceremony; but rather in order to impress some spiritual truthsome, profitable lesson, for the guidance of the footsteps in the proper pathway of the daily life.

The language of Freemasonry is in symbolism. Symbolically, a Mason's Lodge is a representation of the world. As one has written: "Its cloudy canopy is an emblem of those mansions of unutterable bliss, where the Grand Master of the Universe forever reigns, whose all-seeing Eye beholds, with unceasing complacency, the efforts of His creatures to do His will."

To that abode of the blessed, the Freemason is taught to aspire, while the path is indicated by that ladder set up between heaven and earth, whose principal rungs are Faith, Hope and Charity.

About the Freemason in his lodge-room, the surroundings in furniture and ornament are such as to teach him that he, himself "is a member of the great temple of the universe, and that he is in duty bound to obey the laws of the Mighty Master of all, and in His presence seek to be approved."

As the operative mason derives his name from his profession, so in like manner does the Free and Accepted, or speculative Mason derive his name. The operative mason builds visible material edifices; the Freemason builds invisible, heavenly ones. The one builds a palace for the reception of the kings of the earth; the other, if true to his profession, builds up in his own person "an habitation of God—a temple of God—an house not made with hands" to be eternal in the heavens.

A true Freemason is described as one who, by walking according to the teaching of the sacred volume of God's Holy Law, has been enabled to free himself from the bondage of his own carnal will and frailty; who has been enabled to control his appetites and to keep his passions within due bounds with all mankind; who is striving faithfully to maintain in fullest splendor the three great principles of the order, "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth"; and to endeavor by his conduct and example, to promote the glory of God, and the good of all his fellow-creatures—to square his actions with all mankind, and to preserve at all times rectitude of life; and to remember that equality among mankind which is expressed in the Apostle's words: "God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth."

But it is not my purpose this evening to teach to the Freemasons before me what is their duty as Freemasons; nor is it my design to set before the uninitiated what are the leading principles of Freemasonry, as if with design to make the order better known or more fully appreciated. I shall, the rather, strive to deal with the passage before us in a manner suggested by the methods of Freemasonry, and to bring before you all some lessons that are extra, not un-Masonic. I shall endeavor to bring home to the minds of all present the symbolic teaching of the parts of the temple mentioned in the text.

From the various, and varying thoughts of different authors and students of those subjects that antiquarians love to ponder over, it is difficult to understand just what purpose, from a builder's point of view, the two pillars served.

Some tell us that there was nothing supported by them; that they did not form part of the porch or entrance to the temple.

Others reason differently, and show that there are premises upon which to build a conclusion that these two pillars were not only ornamental but useful.

They certainly were ornamental as we learn from their description in the Book of Kings. But whether useful or not in the sense in which a workman would use the word, they have their significance. They have their proper and symbolic teaching, as suggested in their names, meaning as they do "In God is strength" and "He will establish."

Some writers think that these bright brazen pillars with all their beauty of adornment were designed to represent, and bring to mind, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire which led Israel on their journey through the wilderness; but with the Shechinah of glory with which the Holy Place was filled at the dedication of the temple, there was no need for such to be symbolized without the door.

These pillars serve rather to be suggestions to priest and people—to all who came to enter the House of God "That in God alone would be their strength—in Him alone would they be established."

And, brethren, it were well if we all will, in our minds, let these pillars stand yet at the entrance to the House of God. It will be well if we shall learn from their silent language as we pass in mind between them, to depend upon God only, and not upon any sufficiency of our own, for strength and establishment in all religious exercises. When we come to wait upon God, and find our hearts wandering from His service, and our thoughts not fixed upon Him, then by faith let us fetch in help from Heaven. At such a time, let Jachin on the right, suggest that God will fix our roving minds—that it is a good thing that the heart be established by grace.

And when we see ourselves weak and unable for holy duties we shall find encouragement in the silent language of Boaz to the left: "In Him is our strength who works in us both to will and to do, of His good pleasure."

Spiritual strength and stability are to be had in the courts of the Lord's House. There, it is, that He has taught us to wait for His gifts of grace—there, it is, that He has promised especially His blessings.

There are some before me who have come to the House of God this evening as Freemasons who do not frequent the courts of the Lord's House as Christians. What a powerful language should the pillars at the entrance to the temple speak to you? How many suggestions of good are lost to you because you will not "reverence God's sanctuary," and come to meet God in the place of His appointment, because you will continue to disobey the injunction of the Apostle and will forsake the assembling of yourselves with the people of God.

Such are the truths—such are the lessons—suggested to us all, as we look upon the massiveness, and think upon the strength, and call to mind the names of these two pillars Boaz and Jachin.

But we have lessons also in their ornamentation. "In close connection with the solid and the useful was the delicate and the beautiful." This fact is both suggestive and significant. For how good and pleasant would it be if we could always find this connection of the useful and the strong with the beautiful in the lives of men—in our own lives—and in the lives of those about us. And why should it not be so?

If we look about us upon the field of nature we find it so. In the handiwork of God we see in happy combination "majesty and loveliness, strength and fairness, usefulness and beauty."

Let us pass for a moment, in thought, to the mountains to the East. We see their slopes studded with graceful pines, or brilliant in the proper season with the autumn tints of the maple, or we see their roughnesses concealed by the leafy boughs of other trees. The streams and rivers dash madly down their deep ravines and rush roaring through the many narrow canyons, or break in majestic waterfall from some projecting ledge.

And yet beside the pathway of the swift and noisy stream, frail flowers are found, attractive in their beauty, drawing nourishment from the mountain side, and refreshment from the spray borne to them by the gentle mountain breezes.

Then pass in thought beyond the mountains and look upon the broad expanse of prairie land, in spring and summer; we see it brightened everywhere with flowers in profusion; or where the hand of man has made its impress, beautiful with waving grain.

But to return, and cast our eyes to westward, we look upon the great wide sea, one of whose arms makes this terminal city especially attractive to the many visitors who come here. We watch the waves as they break, and as they dash upon the shore with noisy din. As we gaze in thought upon the wide expanse of ocean beyond our shores we call to mind the words of Scripture, that only one can say of it: "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed"; and yet in mid-sea, far down beneath its restless surface, and also on the shore are found diminutive shells of most graceful form, and of exceeding beauty.

In the wide range of all the handiwork of God, we find it true, that the strong and the majestic, the useful and the beautiful are closely linked. "This earth is as one vast temple in which God manifests His presence, His wisdom, and His power; and we may look upon the mighty and the massive objects upon the earth as pillars of this temple." And these have their ornamentation—their lily-work and their net-work—in the flowers and other beauties linked together with them.

II.—Passing from the field of nature to the field of grace, the same fact meets us. In the Word which God has given us by His Son Jesus Christ and by His prophets, the same truth is plainly to be discerned. In this Gospel of both the Old Testament and the New, are mighty massive truths—truths that may be looked upon as the pillars of the Sacred Temple that God will build up in the hearts of men—the Creation—the Fall—(and in order to the Restoration from that fall) the Incarnation—the Life—the Death—the Resurrection—the Ascension, and the Intercession of the Son of God—the nature of God—His Being and our relation to Him—His commands and the love we owe to Him. These are the mighty truths. And then with these, that solemn, awe-full truth—that the day will come when we must all stand at the judgment seat of Christ to give account for all the deeds done in the body.

But side by side with these, and for our strong encouragement, we find it written that the faintest prayer from faithful lips will be heard

by Him who rules over all this vast and mighty universe—that even out of the mouths of babes and sucklings praise is perfected—that there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over a repenting sinner—"that the cherishing of the pure feeling of forgiveness, or the doing of one act of real peace-making brings us farther into the likeness of God than would the accomplishment of the most brilliant intellectual achievement."

These are the delicate and beautiful adornments of the Gospel—these, the lily-work of the massive pillars.

III.—We have men in the Church of Christ—men who are properly typified by the pillars of the temple, strong men, helpful, influential, sustaining men, who not only seem to be pillars, but who are pillars; men who have had opportunities to know of God, and have used them to advantage; men who have been gifted with splendid natural endowments; men who through much tribulation and serious difficulty have become strong and stable in their Christian life; men who have mighty powers and use them on the side of good and right. These are the pillars of the temple, cast and burnished and set in place; and, their ornament of lily-work is the grace of the Christian character.

But, alas, how many there are who have been engrafted into Christ, and have been taught the way of the Christian life, and yet who present only the appearance of the pillars of the text as they were taken from the moulds in the clayey ground near Succoth, or as, when first raised to their position within the porch of the temple, while as yet without their net-work and lily-work. There is only strength and massiveness. There is no grace of courtesy, nor gentleness; no grace of sympathy, of patience, or readiness to yield to others. Because of this their lives become unlovely—there are no attractions with them.

Too many, far too many, who call themselves Christians, are yet without this grace of Christian character.

But, as has been said, "when strength is clothed with grace—when usefulness is touched and finished with loveliness of spirit and of bearing, then we have the massive pillars with their lily-work—the completed pillar fit to adorn and beautify the House of God—fit to speak to, and to teach, and to impress a useful lesson upon all who will draw near.

IV.—Freemasonry is well designed to produce in all its members a strong and vigorous manhood. It is well fitted to be the means of an immense amount of good in human society. Its lessons in morality lie side by side with Christ's teaching, and are in line therewith. Its lessons of duty towards God and towards man are the teaching of the earlier or Jewish Dispensation.

As a teacher, however, Freemasonry falls short in this—it has not developed (at least in its earlier degrees) with the advent of Christianity, to grasp and to stamp upon its teaching the motive of the Christian life as given in the Gospel. But are there not signs of this development?—are there not signs of a desire to stamp Freemasonry with the impress of the later Dispensation? What means your coming here this evening as Free and Accepted Masons and in connection with the

Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, unless it be that yearning on the part of the majority of our membership to have the Order, as an Order, to recognize as existing in the Celestial Grand Lodge, a Trinity of Great Grand Masters—the Father—the Word—and the Spirit, even as is recognized a trinity of Grand Masters at the building of the temple at Jerusalem?"

There will be wisdom in the action, if Freemasons everywhere shall use diligence to bring the Order and themselves as individuals, to a public recognition of faith in Christ, and of the blessings that come from Christianity.

When to the strong and vigorous mankind that Freemasonry is well fitted to produce, there shall be added the grace of Christian character—when to the godly living that the Order enjoins upon her members, there shall be added faith in a Crucified Redeemer—when these shall have been attained in the life and conduct of Freemasons, then will there be in the individual Mason that union which makes the perfect man.

Let us all, therefore, to the strong and massive—to the bright and well proportioned pillars of Freemasonry, add the lily-work of the Gospel, then when summoned from the earthly Lodge, we shall, one and all, be fitted for an abundant entrance into the Celestial Lodge, that Spiritual Temple—that house not made with hands—eternal in the Heavens. To which in His mercy may the Great Grand Master of the Universe lead us all.

First Six Officers of the Grand Lodge from Date of Organization.

Year.	Grand Master.	Dep. Grand Master.	Senior Warden.	Junior Warden.	Treasurer.	Secretary.
1871	I. W. Powell.....	J. F. McCreight ..	S. Duck	Henry Nathan ..	M. W. Waitt.....	H. F. Heisterman*
1872	I. W. Powell.....	J. A. Grahame.....	S. Duck	W. R. Clark	M. W. Waitt.....	H. F. Heisterman*
1873	I. W. Powell.....	J. F. McCreight ..	W. Dalby	E. Harrison, sr...*	M. W. Waitt.....	H. F. Heisterman*
1874	S. Duck.....	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr...*	H. Brown	M. W. Waitt.....	C. M. Chambers.*
1875	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr...*	C. Thorne	J. G. Vinter.....*	M. W. Waitt.....	C. M. Chambers.*
1876	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr...*	J. G. Vinter.....*	C. M. Chambers.*	M. W. Waitt.....	E. Harrison, jr.
1877	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr...*	C. M. Chambers.*	H. Brown	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1878	E. Harrison, sr...*	C. M. Chambers.*	H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr...*	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1879	E. Harrison, sr...*	C. M. Chambers.*	H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr...*	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1880	E. Harrison, sr...*	C. M. Chambers.*	H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr...*	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1881	C. M. Chambers.*	H. Brown	W. T. Livock ..	E. Harrison, jr...*	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1882	H. Brown.....	M. Bate	T. Trounce	R. R. Kelly	M. W. Waitt.....	E. C. Baker.
1883	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. B. Kelly	R. Beaven	M. W. Waitt.....	A. R. Milne.
1884	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. B. Kelly	R. Beaven	M. W. Waitt.....	A. R. Milne.
1885	T. Trounce	W. Dalby	R. Beaven	A. R. Milne.....*	W. Dalby	E. C. Neufelder.
1886	W. Dalby	A. R. Milne.....*	A. R. Milne.....*	J. C. Hughes.....*	H. F. Heisterman*	E. C. Neufelder.
1887	W. Dalby	J. S. Clute	J. C. Hughes.....*	W. Stewart	H. F. Heisterman*	E. C. Neufelder.
1888	A. R. Milne.....	J. S. Clute	D. H. Ross.....	H. Hoy	H. F. Heisterman*	E. C. Neufelder.
1889	J. S. Clute.....	A. McKown	H. Hoy	A. McKown	H. F. Heisterman*	Henry Brown.*
1890	A. McKown	Marcus Wolfe	Marcus Wolfe	W. Downie	H. F. Heisterman*	Henry Brown.*
1891	Marcus Wolfe	Marcus Wolfe	Wm. Downie	S. Clarke	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1892	Wm. Downie	Silbree Clark	Silbree Clark	Peter Grant	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1893	Silbree Clark	R. B. McMicking ..	Peter Grant	R. B. McMicking.	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1894	R. B. McMicking.	Lacey R. Johnson..	Lacey R. Johnson..	Alex. Charleson ..	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1895	Lacey R. Johnson..	Alex. Charleson ..	Alex. Charleson ..	E. D. McLaren	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1896	Alex. Charleson ..	E. D. McLaren	E. D. McLaren	A. E. Leck	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1897	E. D. McLaren	D. Wilson	B. Williams	A. E. Leck	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1898	D. Wilson	R. E. Walker	Jno. W. Coburn ..	Jno. W. Coburn ..	H. F. Heisterman*	W. J. Quinlan.
1899	R. E. Walker	H. H. Watson	Fred. McB. Young.	R. E. Walker	A. B. Erskine....	W. J. Quinlan.
1900	H. H. Watson	Fred. McB. Young.	E. E. Chipman....	A. S. Goodeve....	A. B. Erskine....	W. J. Quinlan.
				C. Ensor Sharp...	A. B. Erskine....	W. J. Quinlan.

*Deceased.

Grand Representatives Near Other Grand Lodges.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama	Wm. S. Foster	Mobile.
Arizona	R. W. Merrill P. Pingree	Freeman.
Arkansas	W. Gaylord J. Klock	Eureka Springs
Beyreuth	R. W. Karl Benker	Beyreuth.
Canada	R. W. John Crenson	Owen Sound.
California	W. Aaron Chalfant	Punta Arenas.
Carolina, North ..	W. H. I. Clark	Hamilton.
Carolina, South ..	W. A. W. Taft	Charleston.
Columbia, Dist. of.	W. John Lockie	Washington.
Colorado	W. John Humphreys	Denver.
Connecticut	W. Nelson G. Hinckley	Hartford.
Cuba, Isle of	W. Candido Sanchez	Havana.
Dakota, North	W. V. S. Stickney	Dickenson.
Dakota, South	W. J. H. Brown	Sioux Falls.
Delaware	R. W. Chas. C. Heisler	Newark.
England	W. J. Braddock Moncton	London.
Florida	W. Livingston W. Bethel	Key West.
Georgia	W. Julius L. Brown	Atlanta.
Hungary	V. W. St. Titl	Buda Pesth.
Idaho	Alfred Moyes	Pocatello.
Illinois	R. W. Loyal L. Munn	Freeport.
Indiana	W. Wm. F. Tulley	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory ..	W. Herbert J. Evans	Muskogee.
Ireland	R. W. F. C. Crossel	Newry.
Italy	R. W. Adriano Lemme	Rome.
Kansas	W. A. H. Connett	Great Bend.
Louisiana	W. Amos Kent	Kentwood.
Maine	W. T. R. Simonton	Camden.
Manitoba	V. W. Jas. A. Carley	Winnipeg.
Maryland	W. Chas. W. Hatter	Baltimore.
Michigan	R. W. Reuben C. Webb	Detroit.
Minnesota	W. Roland H. Hartley	Minneapolis.
Mississippi	W. M. C. Shell	Houston.
Missouri	W. Theo. Bruce	Jefferson City.
Montana	M. W. Jas. H. Monteath	Butte.
New Brunswick	W. John S. Benson	Chatham.
New Hampshire	W. Arthur M. Dodge	Hampton Falls.
New Jersey	W. Henry S. Haines	Burlington.
New Mexico	W. W. Richard English	Albuquerque.
New South Wales ..	W. J. F. Burns, L.S.A.	Sydney.
New York	W. Thos. Bell	Bensonhurst.
New Zealand	V. W. Harry Caplen	Hawera.
Nebraska	W. Wm. Adair	Dakota City.
Nova Scotia	R. W. Thos. R. Harris	Aylesford.
Nevada	W. Geo. Gibson	Carson City.
Ohio	W. W. A. Ward	Conneaut.
Oregon	W. B. G. Whitehouse	Portland.
Peru	W. E. V. Chavez	Lima.
Prince Edward Is.	W. Daniel Ross	Stanley Bridge.
Quebec	W. Dickson Anderson	Montreal.
Rhode Island	W. George E. Webster	Newport.
South Australia ..	W. Fred'k A. Benchmore	Adelaide.
Scotland	P. W. Edward Savage	Aberdeen.
Tasmania	R. W. W. A. Macdougall	Hobart.
Tennessee	M. W. J. C. Cawood	Knoxville.
Texas	W. T. H. Hinkle	Lampasas.
Utah	M. W. Wm. W. Woodring	Mt. Pleasant.
Vermont	R. W. Henry W. Hutchings	Bellevue Falls.
Victoria, Australia	R. W. F. G. Manchester	Melbourne.
Virginia	W. S. McLaughlin	Hallina.
Virginia, West	R. W. Roger B. Rees	Clifton.
Washington	W. Jas. R. Hayden	Olympia.
Wisconsin	R. W. Alex. Moran	Oonaska.

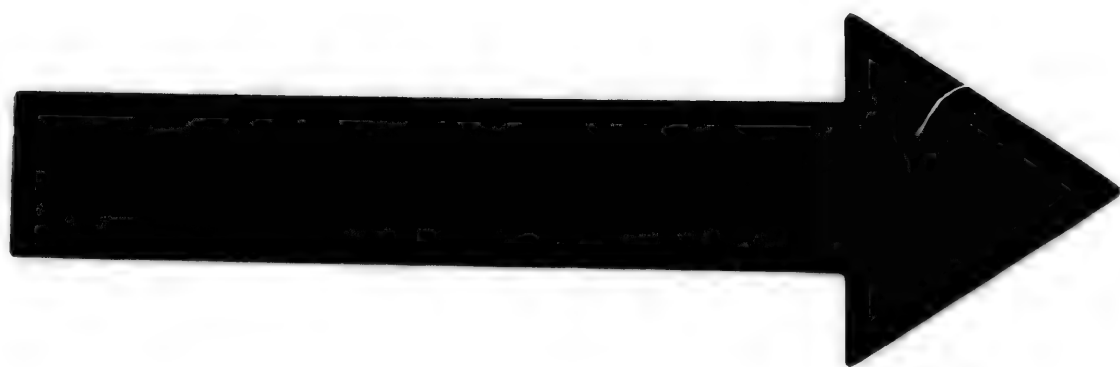
Grand Representatives Near this Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama	W. A. Haslam.....	Nanaimo.
Arizona	W. I. Oppenheimer.....	Vancouver.
Arkansas	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	Victoria.
Beyreuth	W. Jas. B. Johnson.....	New Westminster.
Canada	M. W. Wm. Dalby.....	Victoria.
California	R. W. Mark Bate.....	Nanaimo.
Carolina, North ..	W. James Stone.....	Barkerville.
Carolina, South ..	W. Wm. Manson.....	New Westminster.
Columbia, Dist. of	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr.....	Victoria.
Colorado	R. W. Wm. Stewart.....	Nanaimo
Connecticut	W. Robert F. Green.....	Kaslo
Cuba, Isle of.....	W. John Teague.....	Victoria.
Dakota, North ...	W. Jas. Abrams.....	Union.
Dakota, South ...	W. Thos. B. Pearson....	Victoria
Delaware	R. W. R. B. Kelly.....	New Westminster.
England	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr.....	Departure Bay.
Florida	W. Geo. S. Russell.....	Victoria.
Georgia	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	"
Hungary	W. E. J. Salmon.....	"
Idaho	W. Wm. Howay.....	New Westminster.
Illinois	W. W. W. Northcott....	Victoria.
Indiana	M. W. David Wilson.....	"
Indian Territory..	W. Thos. Shotbolt.....	"
Ireland	V. W. W. J. Quinlan.....	Nelson
Italy	W. D. Cartmel.....	Victoria
Kansas	R. W. John W. Coburn....	Nanaimo.
Louisiana	W. Harry N. Rich.....	Ladners
Maine	M. W. E. D. McLaren....	Vancouver.
Manitoba	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr.....	Departure Bay.
Maryland	W. J. W. Hamilton.....	Nelson.
Michigan	M. W. Harry H. Watson ...	Vancouver
Minnesota	W. Chas. E. Tisdall.....	"
Mississippi	W. Alex. M. Fraser.....	New Westminster.
Missouri	M. W. R. B. McMicking....	Victoria.
Montana	W. John Piercy.....	"
New Brunswick ..	M. W. W. Downie.....	Vancouver.
New Hampshire..	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr.....	Departure Bay.
New Jersey	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr.....	Victoria.
New Mexico	R. W. A. E. Lees.....	Vancouver.
New South Wales..	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	Victoria.
New York	R. W. W. A. DeWolf Smith..	New Westminster.
New Zealand	W. Gabriel Thomas.....	Vancouver.
Nebraska	W. R. P. Rithet.....	Victoria.
Nova Scotia	R. W. Peter Grant.....	New Westminster.
Nevada	W. Jos. Brown.....	Nanaimo.
Ohio	R. W. H. Hoy.....	New Westminster.
Oregon	M. W. Alex. Charleson....	"
Prince Edward Is.	W. A. H. B. Macgowan..	Vancouver.
Peru	W. C. Nevello Westwood..	Nanaimo.
Quebec	W. James Reid.....	Quesnelle.
Rhode Island	W. John Teague.....	Victoria.
Scotland	M. W. A. R. Milne.....	"
Tasmania	M. W. Lacey R. Johnson....	Vancouver.
Tennessee	W. H. J. Rayner.....	Rossland
Texas	W. Munroe Miller.....	Victoria.
Utah	M. W. Angus McKeown....	"
Vermont	M. W. Sibree Clarke.....	Kamloops.
Victoria, Australia	M. W. W. Dalby.....	Victoria.
Virginia	R. W. Fred. McB. Young...	Nanaimo.
Virginia, West ...	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr.....	Victoria.
Washington	W. Thomas Downie.....	Revelstoke.
Wisconsin	W. Thos. J. Armstrong....	New Westminster.
South Australia ..	R. W. Ben. Williams.....	Victoria.

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES.

Grand Lodges.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Alabama	H. Clay Armstrong.....	Montgomery
Arizona	Geo. J. Roskrue.....	Tucson.
Arkansas	F. Hempstead	Little Rock.
British Columbia..	W. J. Quinlan.....	Nelson.
Canada	John J. Mason.....	Hamilton, Ontario.
California	Geo. Johnson.....	San Francisco.
Colorado	Edward Carroll Parmelee ..	Denver.
Connecticut	John H. Barlow.....	Hartford.
Dakota, South	Geo. A. Pettigrew.....	Flandreau.
Dakota, North	F. J. Thompson.....	Fargo.
Delaware	Benj. F. Bartram.....	Wilmington.
Dist. of Columbia.	Wm. R. Singleton.....	Washington, D.C.
Florida	W. P. Webster.....	Jacksonville.
Georgia	W. A. Wolihin.....	Macon.
Idaho	Theo. W. Randall.....	Boise City.
Illinois	J. H. C. Dill.....	Bloomington.
Indiana	W. H. Smythe.....	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory ..	J. S. Murrow.....	Atoka.
Iowa	Theodore S. Parvin.....	Cedar Rapids.
Kansas	Albert K. Wilson.....	Topeka.
Kentucky	H. B. Grant.....	Louisville.
Louisiana	Richard Lambert.....	New Orleans.
Maine	Stephen Berry.....	Portland.
Manitoba	James A. Ovas.....	Winnipeg.
Maryland	Jacob H. Medairy.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts	Sereno D. Nickerson	Boston.
Michigan	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Coldwater.
Minnesota	Thos. Montgomery.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi	J. L. Power.....	Jackson.
Missouri	John D. Vincil.....	St. Louis.
Montana	Cornelius Hedges.....	Helena.
Nebraska	Francis E. White.....	Plattsmouth
Nevada	C. N. Noteware.....	Carson City.
New Brunswick ..	J. T. Hartt.....	St. John.
New Hampshire ..	Frank D. Woodbury.....	Concord.
New Jersey	Thos. H. R. Redway.....	Trenton.
New Mexico	Alpheus A. Keen.....	Albuquerque.
New York	Edward M. L. Ehlers.....	New York.
North Carolina ..	John C. Drewry.....	Raleigh.
Nova Scotia	Hon. W. Ross.....	Halifax.
Ohio	J. H. Bromwell.....	Cincinnati.
Oregon	James F. Robinson	Eugene.
Oklahoma	J. S. Hunt.....	Stillwater, O. T.
Pennsylvania	Wm. A. Sinn.....	Philadelphia.
Prince Edward Is.	Neil McKelvie.....	Summerside.
Quebec	John A. Isaacson.....	Montreal.
Rhode Island	Edwin Baker.....	Providence.
South Carolina ..	Charles Inglesby.....	Charleston.
Tennessee	John B. Garrett.....	Nashville.
Texas	John Watson.....	Houston.
Utah	Christopher Diehl.....	Salt Lake City.
Vermont	W. G. Reynolds.....	Burlington
Virginia	Geo. W. Carrington.....	Richmond.
Washington	Thos. M. Reid.....	Olympia.
West Virginia	Geo. W. Atkinson.....	Wheeling.
Wisconsin	John W. Laffin.....	Milwaukee.
Wyoming	W. L. Kuykendell.....	Saratoga.



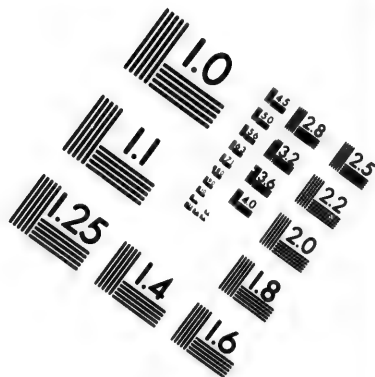
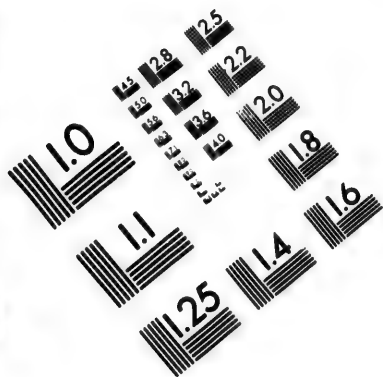
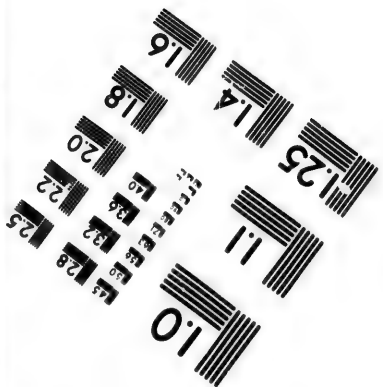
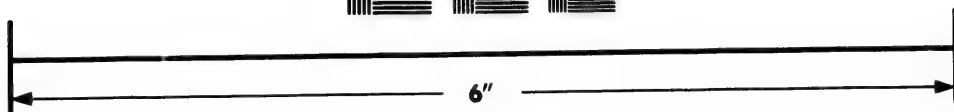
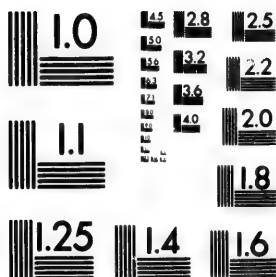


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DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES.—Continued.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Grand Lodges.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
England	Edward Letchworth	London.
Scotland	David Murray Lyon	Edinburgh.
Ireland	Archibald St. George	Dublin.

EUROPEAN.

Austro-Hungary ..	Joseph Hausdorfer	Buda Pesth.
Belgium	Rian Nedgrot	Brussels.
Denmark	Wm. Schyette	Copenhagen.
France—Lodge ..	P. D. Hamill	Paris.
France—Council ..	E. Berard	Paris.
Germany	Ernest Kelman	Berlin.
Three Globes ...	C. W. Lynde	Berlin.
National	Wilhelm Rahe	Berlin.
Royal York	Karl Bouche	Berlin.
Hamburg	F. W. Bokelmann	Hamburg.
Hess Darmstadt.	Dr. Carl Nies	Darmstadt.
Union Electric ..	Karl Paul	Frankfort-on-Main.
Saxony	F. G. Steubler	Dresden.
Bavaria	G. H. Fischer	Beyreuth.
Greece	S. Stephenson	Athens.
Holland	J. Boudewinzse	The Hague.
Italy		Rome.
Portugal	J. d'A. de Franco-Netto	Lisbon.
Roumania	Dr. N. Theodoreschi	Bucharest.
Spain—Lodge	Don Juan U. Y. Fernandez ..	Madrid.
Spain—National ..	Julio Fernandez Espina	Madrid.
Sweden	Robert Dickson	Stockholm.
Switzerland	Hermann Krauss	Geneva.
Hungary	Maurice Gelleri	Buda Pesth.

AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales.	A. H. Bray	Sydney, Australia.
Victoria, Australia	John Braim	Melbourne, Vict.
South Australia ..	James H. Cunningham	Adelaide.
Tasmania	John Hamilton	Hobart.
New Zealand	Rev. Wm. Ronaldson	Auckland, N. Z.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURNS

OF THE

SUBORDINATE LODGES

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE

M. W. GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

From March 1st, 1899, to February 28th, 1900.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1,

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Mason, C. Dubois.	Worshipful Master	Seelig, G. H.	Junior Deacon
Crocker, J. W.	Senior Warden	Sperling, R. H.	Steward
Riddell, P. J.	Junior Warden	Christie, G. D.	Steward
Clarke, Hardress.	Treasurer	Davidge, F. C.	Inner Guard
Oddy, B. S., P. M.	Secretary	Stockham, F.	Tyler
Northcott, W. W., P.M.	Dir. of Cer.	Andrews, J.	Organist
Edwards, S. W.	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Baker, E. Crow.	McFarland, G.	Salmon, E. J.
Pelyea, A. L.	Pearson, T. B.	Salmon, H. L.
Brett, R. E.	Piercy, J.	Shotbolt, T.
Carmel, D.	Parker, James.	Stewart, A.
Flint, A. St. G.	Quinlan, W. J.	Teague, J.
Millar, Jas.	Russell, G. S.	Trounce, T.
McKeown, A.	Richardson, W. A.	Williams, B.

MASTER MASONS.

Arthur, Wm.	Currall, W. D.	Ellis, W. H.
Angus, J. K.	Carthew, J. A.	Elllott, J. G.
Blackwood, E. E.	Courtney, G. L.	Fraser, R. L.
Brown, T. H.	Court, S. C.	Flumerfelt, A. C.
Bostock, H.	Dodds, T.	Guns, T. S.
Brown, Douglas	Draney, R.	Greenhalgh, S.
Casse W.	Dean, J.	Glichrist, W. L.
Croft, H.	Danby, W. H.	Gutmann, M.
Campbell, D.	Davy, J.	Greenwood, A. E.
Church, J. E.	Esnouf, R. B.	Going, A. S.
Chilchase, R.	English, R.	Hollins, J. M.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.

Hall, J.	McCandless, A. G.	Renouf, C. E.
Hobbs, F. V.	McKenzie, W. G.	Robertson, G.
Holland, J.	McTavish, G. S.	Richdale, J. H.
Hanna, W. J.	McKiligan, J. B.	Richdale, W. H. F.
Houston, W. K.	Nicholson, J.	Shaw, W. H.
Hanson, R. E.	Northcott, J. A.	Stanton, H.
Irvine, D. R.	Nicholson, Thos.	Sinclair, R.
Jeffcott, J. E.	Nicholles, J.	Swinerton, R. H.
Johnson, E. E. C.	Phillips, A.	Speed, J. W.
Kelly, S. L.	Pennock, W. H.	Sheppard, H. W.
Ker, D. R.	Preece, T.	Schmith, G.
Langley, E.	Prevost, W. L.	Speer, N.
Lindsay, J. A.	Payne, G. F.	Trickey, W.
Munro, G. E.	Perdue, G. M.	Tulk, C. J.
Mesher, G. C.	Perry, W. H.	Townsend, N. F.
Mesher, G.	Porter, R. J.	Tonerl, P. E.
Mallette, C. E.	Pelser, K. K.	Turtle, T.
Milne, G. L.	Robinson, J. J.	Tubman, T.
Munn, H. A.	Rusta, A.	Whittaker, W.
Mable, W. J.	Ridgeman, A. H.	Wenger, J.
Murray, Wm.	Robson, F.	Wickens, E. G.
Moffat, J.	Robinson, T. H.	Williams, W. T.
Martin, Archer.	Reddick, W.	Wilmer, F. L.
McCahill, M.	Richards, O.	
McNiven, A.	Rostein, J.	

DEMITTED.

Cameron, Allan.	McGregor, M.	Sharp, K.
Clarke, John Sibree.	Ross, H. G.	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Williams, W. H.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Davidson, A. A.	Jones, D. L.
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Weller, J.	Williams, F.
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SUSPENDED.

Creech, Wm.	Frossor, T. H.	Saunders, H.
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VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2,

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Robertson, Fred. V....Wor. Master	Pope, Wm. F. Carey....Sen. Deacon
Horne, Thomas H....Senior Warden	Parcell, Wm. Norman...Jun. Deacon
Paul, Edward B.....Junior Warden	Blackwood, James.... Steward
Lovell, J. B.....Treasurer	Randolph, Jos. J.....Steward
Muir, A. Maxwell, P.M....Secretary	Drake, Richard.....Inner Guard
Currie, A. W....Dir. of Ceremonies	Stockham, F. (Memb. No. 1)...Tyler

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2—Continued.

PAST MASTERS.

Dalby, Wm.	Harrison, Ell, Jr.	Stallard, Chas. E.
Dow, G. A.	McMicklug, R. B.	Thompson, M. H.
Erskine, A. B.	Miller, J. M.	Waller, Hy.
Glover, Geo.	Milne, A. R.	Wilson, David.
Graham, J. A.	Netherby, S. B.	
Harrison, Ell, Sr.	Phillips, J. E.	

MASTER MASONS.

Anderson, David H.	Forman, James	Orr, Jno. T.
Anderson, John.	Grelg, F. T.	Owen, W. D.
Anderson, Wm. A.	Gregory, F. B.	Paterson, John.
Austin, Hy. J.	Gustafson, Olaf.	Pascoe, W. H.
Allan, T. W.	Gardner, W. E.	Phillips, John.
Berry, Francis.	Grahame H. M.	Rithet, R. P.
Bullen, W. F.	Haynes, W.	Ruckle, Hy.
Buckman, S. W.	Heron, Robert.	Ross, Adam.
Bragg, W. T.	Hunter, Jos.	Robertson, G. W.
Bryce, Jas.	Henderson, Thos.	Roberts, Samuel R.
Bragg, Ed.	Harris, Chas. F.	Steele, Peter.
Butler, J. W.	Hayward, Chas.	Shaw, Thos.
Badcock, James	Henderson, Anton.	Shaw, Richard.
Behnson, H. F. W.	Hall, Ernest A.	Sinclair, Duncan.
Calbreath, J. C.	Helsterman, B. S.	Scott, Hy. J.
Cunningham, Robert.	Irving, P. AE.	Sinclair, T. F.
Colgdarripe, John.	Jones, W. H.	Smith, Abe E.
Cox, C. N.	Jackson, Archibald	Shaw, R. W.
Cutler, M. F.	Leiser, Simon.	Shaw, James
Campbell, Rev. John	Lesmore, Jos.	Turner, J. H.
Campbell, Chas.	Madden, Jerh.	Tolmie, Andrew.
Campbell, Jno. J.	Meyers, Wm.	Turpel, Wm.
Chestnay, W. R.	Magnesen, Alfred.	Talt, Leonard
Clayton, G. L.	Margreesen, F. M.	Williams, John.
Challoner, W. L.	McIntosh, C. W.	Walkley, A.
Catterall, Thos.	Muir, Alexander	Wade, A. E.
Dawley, W. F.	McLennan, John.	Wray, Albert
Dillon, C. F.	McDougall, Edwin.	Worthington, Thos. J.
Dinsdale, R.	McKenzie, A. M.	Walter, A.
Ercole, Dominique.	McAfee, Andrew	
Fletcher, Cecil	Ormiston, Geo.	

DEMITTED.

McIntosh, Robert

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Crawford, Malcolm M.C.	Nerich, J. P.	O'Brien, Clarence
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Borno, Walter	Morrison, Rod'k	Piper, C. T. W.
Hughes, W. Otter	McCullough, H.	Stewart, Alex.
Lang, W. D.	Parsons, W. H.	Sea, jr., Samuel.
Miller, S. P.		

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Ross, Dixi H.

SUSPENDED.

Harrison, S. G.	Newman, Adolph
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ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3.**NANAIMO, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Jones, Thomas, W.....	Wor. Master	Warwick, John.....	Junior Deacon
Lewis, William.....	Senior Warden	O'Connell, P. Henry.....	Steward
Carpenter, Geo. W.....	Junior Warden	Rumming, Wm. E.....	Steward
Bate, Mark, P.M.....	Treasurer	Mason, Wm.	Inner Guard
Thomson, Geo., P.M.....	Secretary	Barnes, Edward C.....	Tyler
Cowie, James.....	Dir of Ceremonies	Foster, Nelson G.....	Organist
Stewart, H. D. R.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Bosanquet, R. A.	Ferguson, W. B.	Renwick, John.
Brown, Joseph M.	Grant, Alexander	Stewart, W.(hon.mem.)
Drake, Samuel.	Leighton, W. K.	Westwood, C. N.
Frame, John.	Laud, Peter M.	

MASTER MASONS.

Aitken, Jas.	Hughes, John.	Kelly, J. C.
Baker, Geo.	Joncas, Frank.	Richardson, J. W.
Bevillockway, Geo.	Kirkwood, Robt.	Richardson, W.
Boggiano, D.	Lamont, Malcolm.	Ross, Hy.
Bradley, Jas.	Larss, P. E.	Ross, W.
Byers, Fred. W.	Leask, Geo.	Rumming, C. H.
Campbell, Walter.	Lukey, R. J.	Rowe, Richard H.
Church, Howard E.	McBroom, Arch.	Robinson, Samuel.
Dobson, David.	McCulloch, W.	Sablston, John.
Duffie, Matthew.	McKenzie, Murdock	Scouse, W.
Dawson, Henry	McKinlay, Jas.	Shaw, J. C.
Dykes, Watson	McKinnell, Andrew.	Skotvold, Erik.
Elllott, Chas. A.	McLachlan, R. K.	Sloan, W.
Erb, Samuel	McMillan, Ewen.	Stirtan, J. W.
Flack, Thos.	McBain, Geo. A.	Summerhayes, A.
Frame, James.	Marshall, Wm.	Tait, Andrew
Henderson, Alex.	Martell, J.	Thurston, A. J
Horne, A.G. (hon.mem.)	Moss, Thos. F.	Trumper, J. A.
Horne, A. H.	O'Connell, Thos.	Van Houten, W. J.
Flummerfelt, W. E.	Patterson, John.	Watson, A. V.
Foster, Herbert A.	Pender, Jas.	Young, C. N.
Hoskin, E. A.	Pottinger, David R.	Young, John

DEMITTED.

Coburn, John W., P.M.	Milne, Thomas
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

McGirr, William	Shaw, John
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Harris, David	McKenzie, C. C., P.M.	Trounce, William
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SUSPENDED.

Barrett, E. W.	McHaffy, R.	Zallnsky, Paul
Davis, T. H.	Robinson, W. J.	

RESTORED.

McBain, Geo. A.	Milne, Thomas
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CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4, BARKERVILLE, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Lanyon, John.....	Wor. Master	McDermott, Hy. (deceased)...	Sec'y
McGregor, P. F.....	Senior Warden	Stone, James, P.M.....	Senior Deacon
Wormald, Wm.....	Junior Warden	Kirkpatrick, W. J.....	Junior Deacon
Kelby, Andrew, P.M.....	Treasurer	Innes, Jas., P.M.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Hunter, T. C.	Stephenson, Wm.
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MASTER MASONS.

Bonner, L. A.	McMillan, James	Reid, James.
Camplon, L. F. G.	McKay, D.	Shaw, D. R.
Christie, W. J.	Moxley, J. W.	St. Laurent, J. H.
Glendenning, P.	O'Neill, C.	Tegart, A. H.
Johnston, W. A.	Phelps, W. H.	Thormahlen, Theo.

DEMITTED.

Watt, Hugh

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

McDermott, Hy.

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7,

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Bowser, W. J....	Worshipful Master	Logan, J. J.....	Senior Deacon
Bell, H. A.....	Senior Warden	Neelands, T. F.....	Junior Deacon
Brown, J. T.....	Junior Warden	Thompson, N.....	Steward
Lees, A. E., P.M.....	Treasurer	Hodgson, R. C.....	Steward
Stevens, G. A.	Secretary	Smith, E. S.....	Inner Guard
Whittingdon, R., Rev.....	Chaplain	Robertson, H.....	Tyler
Hunt, W.....	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Allan, P. A.	McNaughton, P.	Thomas, G.
Cowperthwaite, F. M.	Nelson, C.	Ward, Talbot.
Hogg, W.	Oppenheimer, I.	Wilson, G. I.
Jarrett, S. N.		

MASTER MASONS.

Aconley, W.	Boyd, T.	Cameron, Jos.
Amey, H. A.	Bridge, W.	Campbell, M. D.
Allan, R. H.	Buckley, H.	Ceperley, H. T.
Ashworth, E. B.	Burdls, W. D.	Chase, W. H.
Banfield, J. J.	Buck, A. H.	Cordiner, P.
Bell, Thos.	Baker, A.	Clayton, E.
Bell-Irving, Dr. H.	Cross, T.	Cleland, A.

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.

Cox E.	Jenkinson, J.	McKibbon, R. E.
Cook, E.	Jullaa, T. E.	McMillan, J.
Dalron, J.	Johnstone, W. A.	McCord, B. C.
Dixon, E. C.	Jopson, J. B.	McDonald, W. A.
Dinsmore, G.	Jones, Jas.	Oakley, N. L.
Duke T.	Knight, G.	Pearson, G.
Douglas, C. S.	Kerfoot, W. J. B.	Preston, J.
Davies, W.	Knowdell, E.	Pendola, A.
Devine, H. T.	Linton, A.	Plethall, J.
Edwards, H.	Lyman, W.	Ralph, W.
Edwards, R.	Lewis, H. L.	Roberts, S.
England, J.	Lockwood, E.	Rowe, O. G.
Erwin W. H.	Lundie, R.	Ross, D.
Evans, W. H.	Logan, R. M.	Smith, E. S.
Farr, Ed.	Lord, W. R.	Slayton, H.
Fraser, D. M.	Mortimore, S. G.	Scott, Thos.
Forsberg, C.	Moffatt, J. J.	Scott, S.
Ford, C. W.	Matheson, M.	Skeffington, Geo.
Foreman, C.	Mason, R.	Smith, Geo.
Franklin, J. L.	Maitland, R. R.	Smith, H.
Gilchrist, A.	Miller, H.	Solloway, A. E.
Goad, J.	Marrion, R.	Southcott, J. J.
Gibson, W. F.	Miller, A. R.	Shelton, G.
Graham, C. O.	Murray, J.	Torey, G. E.
Grant, R. J.	McDonald, W. A.	Turnbull, J. D.
Gray, Thos.	McMillan, A. E.	Urquhart, G.
Hunt, W. E.	McKinnon, Thos.	Wilson, T.
Hobson, G.	McCallum, A. R.	Wallace, A.
Hanna, J. J.	McLeod, J. M. (Rev.)	Woods, J. S.
Hutchings, G. W.	McClay, S.	Wright, J. P.
Hatch, G. W.	McLuckle, J. M.	Weeks, G. W.
Helm F.	McCuag, G.	Wright, A. J.
Hobson, G. W.	McDermott, D.	Williams, J.
Harrison, H. C.	McHardy, C.	Webster, R.
Haywood, V. W.	McIntosh, D.	Woods, J. G.
Hillier, Chas.	McIntosh, J. M.	Wood, W. D.
Hooper, Wm.		

DEMITTED.

Archer, W. C.	Miller, H.	Smith, J. B.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Evans, W. F.	Waddell, A.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Baer, W. W.	Kerr, J. S.	McLeod, A.
Bailey, W.	Milne C.	Robinson, J.
Barker, E.	McTaggart, H. A.	

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Little, Joseph

SUSPENDED.

Casselman, R., P.M.

RESTORED.

Devine, H. T.	Franklin, J. L.
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UNION LODGE, No. 9, NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Brine, George.....Wor. Master	McKenzie, Duncan E....Jun. Deacon
Young, Jas. Augustus..Sen. Warden	Archibald, Alexander.....Steward
Sanderson, David, P....Jun. Warden	Dunlop, Wm. Edward.....Steward
Johnson, Jas. Bruce, P.M...Treasurer	Chapman, Robt. Keam..Inner Guard
De Wolf Smith, W. A., P.M....Sec'y	Forrester, James Jarvie.....Tyler
Muir, Thos. Albert.....Sen. Deacon	

PAST MASTERS.

Binnie, Thomas.	Hoy, Henry.	Murray, J. (hon. mem.)
Chapman, Edward	Kelly, Robert B.	Rich, Harry Nelson.
Charleson, Alexander.	Lehman, Isaac	Scott, James Geo.
Grant, Peter.	McKercher, Alexander.	Spiers, James.
Howay, William.	Manson, William.	Walker, Richard Eden.

MASTER MASONS.

Allen, Alfred Edward	Hendry, John.	McIntosh, Robert W.
Annandale, Thomas S.	Holmes, Audry J.	McGillivray, D.
Kates, Jno. Chas. A.	Hughes, J. Henry.	McNair, Alexander.
Bole, William Norman.	Irvine, Richard D.	McNair, Ebenezer.
Bonson, Robert F.	Junkin, J. C.	McNeeley, Thomas.
Boutillier, Francis	Jackson, Frederick	McRae, Alexander, Sr.
Carter, Cecil H.	Jardine, Robert	McRae, Alexander, Jr.
Clark, Charles	Johnson, William.	Neelands, Wm. Hy.
Coatham, William C.	Laidlaw, Fergus.	Patterson, D.
Cotton, Arthur Fred'k	Latham, Harry Percival	Peele, Percy Richard
Coulthard, Fredk. Jno.	Lanzeby, Arthur L.	Rickman, Reginald Jno.
Croucher, Charles	Mead, George.	Riske, Lucius W.
Cunningham, Wm. J.	Mills, Joseph.	Robertson, Robt. J.
Dodd, William.	Morrison, John.	Robson, Frederick H.
Elson, William.	Munn, Angus	Ryall, J. A.
Ems, John	Munn, D. J.	Scott, John T.
Ferguson, Alexander	Murchie, David.	Shadwell, Howard B.
Fraser, James D.	McBride, Arthur Hill.	Shles, Delaware A.
Gilley, James Rogers.	McBride, Richard	Sloan, Wm. James.
Gilley, Walter A.	McColl, William.	Smither, Alfred.
Gray, John H.	McCormick, Wm. H.	Tingley, Stephen.
Hart, Frederick John.	McMartin, Jas. Archer	Whyte, John Connal.
Harvie, Robert		

DEMITTED.

Clute, John Stilwell	Phillips, James Edw.	Welsh, Daniel
Cross, Gerald H.		

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Carrle, Thomas	Harris, James
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Bule, John	Douglas, Benjamin	Rankin, James Veltch
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SUSPENDED.

Cross, Gerald H.

KAMLOOPS LODGE. No. 10,**KAMLOOPS, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Stevens, Chas.	Wor. Master	Donaldson, Jos. A.	Senior Deacon
Harper, Jas. M.	Senior Warden	Deane, F. J.	Junior Deacon
Mallery, Geo. T.	Junior Warden	McDonald, A. G.	Steward
Roadley, Thos.	Treasurer	Foster, James.	Steward
Wood, E. Stuart, P.M.	Secretary	Nelson, William.	Inner Guard
Flewelling, E. P., P.M.	Chaplain	Loney, George.	Tyler
Beattie, Martin, P.M.	Dir. of Cera.		

PAST MASTERS.

Clarke, Sibree, M.D.	Middleton, Geo.	Ridley, H. C. M.
Horlock, D. W. H.	Pownall, Guy F.	Tunstall, J. S., M.D.

MASTER MASONS.

Bushell, A. W.	Jardine, W. D.	Risteen, Geo. S.
Barnhart, P. A.	Johnson, G. E.	Roper, W. J.
Bruce, Hugh.	Marshallsay, Ernest.	Ross, M. G.
Bunt, Robt.	Meldrum, J. A.	Serson, J.
Crawford, M. F.	McCullough, George.	Smith, Wm. H.
Carrington, A. R.	McKacher, J. F.	Strutt, Chas. H.
Decker, Isaac.	McKay, James A.	Sutton, A. W., M.D.
Duck, Jacob.	McDonald, Hugh.	Swan, Alex.
Fingland, A. R.	McMoline, Alex.	Sweeney, Thos.
Foreman, David.	Newton, Adam.	Thynne, J. G.
Graham, T. W.	Noble, Andrew.	Vicars, J. R.
Herchimer, John.	Ostrom, A. D.	Wills, W. S. N.
Hume, W. R.	Orchard, E. A.	
Jenkins, J. W.	Proctor, A. P., M.D.	

DEMITTED.

Carment, J. J.	Cunningham, R. S.	Miller W. O.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Barwick, N. J. H.	Bloomer, T. L.	Hastings, John
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Anthony, J. H.	Husband, Robt.	Robertson, W. J.
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Slater, Chas. R., P.M.

SUSPENDED.

Bannerman, John, P.M.

RESTORED.

Smith, Wm. Hichens

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11, **GOLDEN, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Plitts, J. C. (P.M.).....Wor. Master	Parson, H. G.....Senior Deacon
Patmore, R. W.....Senior Warden	Stalker, Fred.....Junior Deacon
McDermot, J. B.....Junior Warden	Shaw, J. ....Steward
Parson, C. H.....Treas and Sec'y	Caldwell, W. W.....Steward
Griffith, J. E.....Dir. of Ceremonies	Redgrave, S. ....Inner Guard

PAST MASTERS.

Clark, S. (M.D.)	McLeod, John	Ruttan, W. S.
Downie, Thos.	Newman, Wm.	Trimble, Edward
Mathie, James		

MASTER MASONS.

Allan, John	Graham, G. W.	McPherson, J. E.
Anderson, John	Hobbs, F. E.	Nelson, John
Anderson, Vlc.	Hopgood, John	Robinson, Fred.
Ames, C. J.	Jackson, Fred.	Russell, E. J.
Baines, C. T.	Kling, L.	Solloway, L. T.
Baldrey, A. E.	Manuel, Geo. E.	Stirratt, J. H.
Brundrette, Harvey	Marpole, R.	Seaton, R. H. G.
Cross, J. W. (M.D.)	Mack, James	Van Antwerp, W. F.
Denman, A. W.	Macleon, D. H.	Wall, W. H.
Errickson, A.	McLean, Angus	Wall, J. B.
Elson, W. H.	McInnis, James	Wright, James
Fennell, J. N.	McKay, D.	Walker, W. A.
Fraser, D. J.	McMillan, C.	

DEMITTED.

Clark, Thomas	Jameson, D.	Macarthur, A. C.
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CASCADE LODGE, No. 12, **VANCOUVER, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Hartley, F. W.....Wor. Master	Sclater, James.....Senior Deacon
Wilson, Chas.....Senior Warden	MacNeil, C. B.....Junior Deacon
Tucker, L. Norman..Junior Warden	McDonald, Hugh .....Steward
Watson, H. H.....Treasurer	Evans, Thos .....Steward
Stacey, A. R.....Secretary	Sykes, S. C.....Inner Guard
McLaren E. D.....Chaplain	Hosker, E.....Tyler
Stuart, J. D.....Dir. of Ceremonies	

PAST MASTERS.

Atkins, Thos. E.	Irvine, Jno.	Mowat, Daniel
Buscombe, Frederick	Johnson, Lacy R.	McGregor, J. M.
Downie, Wm.	Klaby, E. C.	Seymour, J. R.
Gatewood, C. E.	MacGowan, A. H. B.	Tisdall, C. E.
Horne, J. W.	Miller, W. O.	Tracey, T. H.
Hutchinson, G. H.	Miller, James E.	Turner, John J.

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.

Atkinson, J.	Drake, Wm. E.	Maxwell, Geo. R.
Alexander, R. H.	Diplock, A. B.	MacFarlane, J. W.
Apenes, R. A.	Dowling, F. W.	McGillivray, D.
Atkinson, C. D. T.	Douglas, Frank.	McNab, Allen.
Auld, Wm.	Dutcher, Geo.	McCreery, Jos.
Ailce, A. H.	DeBeck, Geo. W.	McKay, Robt.
Andrews, Hy.	Elliott, John E.	McGregor, D. C.
Ashcroft, E. C.	Evans, F. W.	McNeil, Thos.
Anderson, D. McK.	Forrest, A. V.	McIntosh, W. A.
Barnett, Thos. E.	Fuller, Geo. W.	McDonald, A.
Blackmore, Wm.	Ferguson, R. C.	McFarland, J. E. W.
Brown, Geo.	Ferguson, J. B.	Nickson, J. J.
Bowell, J. M.	Greer, Wm.	Orbell, R. H.
Brown, H. K.	Green, Horace.	Oldershaw, C. R.
Braidd, Wm.	Grant, Robt.	Prenter, Sam. L.
Breeze, J. D.	Graves, A. M.	Pace, W. J.
Bridgeman, Chas. E.	Gray, T. C.	Plumm, Wm.
Bourne, A. S.	Garden, James F.	Prescott, John
Bradburn, H. H.	Griffith, Griffith.	Righter, P. D.
Bisset, D. C.	Gilmour, H. B.	Rathgobor, F.
Bales, H. H.	Henderson, Stanley.	Robertson, David.
Burgess, T. H.	Hosker, E. J.	Robinson, Alex.
Burns, H.	Hamersley, A. St. G.	Robinson, Richard.
Brooke, Robt. R. H. S.	Hall, Jas. D.	Rickards, S. B.
Blythe, Tho. A.	Hunt, Sr., Lucas.	Rowling, John
Bruine, H.	Hodgson, Martin W.	Sterling, David.
Buxton, J. M.	Hamilton, Robt.	Sleson, Thos. H.
Charleson, D. B.	Holmes, A. W. S.	Stewart, D. McG.
Choate, E.	Hook, Wm.	Simpson, Geo. R.
Connon, H. E.	Hodgson, W.	Stracey, A. A. H.
Carroll, John T.	Hastings, T. W.	Sharpe, Thos.
Cambie, H. J.	Iliff, A. E.	Smith, J. H.
Clouston, Thos.	Irving, James	Schofield, F. J.
Crowder, J. S.	Jordan, G. A.	Skinner, R. B.
Crawford, J. G. H.	Jaack, J. F.	Stewart, J. W. W.
Christie, W. J.	Keith, Samuel.	Tiffin, J. B.
Campion, J. W.	Kent, H. W.	Tite, J. R.
Creery, A. Mc.	Loutit, J. I.	Twyman, Henry.
Campbell, J. G.	Leask, John.	Townley, T. O.
Cowan, Geo. H.	Lough, Wm.	Vick, G. H.
Campbell, A. O.	Ledger, A. Klitt.	Vance, John
Creelman, H.	Lett, Chas. A.	Vanhorne, Paul
Crombie, J. G.	Lewthwaite, Wm. A.	Watson, J. H.
Christian, Valentine.	Lee, Joseph	Williams, James.
Campbell W.	Lockyr, H. T.	White, Jos.
Clark, H. C.	Morrison, J. W.	Winch, R. V.
Cleveland, E. A.	Matheson, D. A.	Walker, Thos. W.
Clynn, Hy.	Milne, John G.	Williams, John.
Cameron, Allan	Marshall, D. G.	Witticombe, H. T.
Doig, James.	Murray, Wm.	Weld, O.
Dragoylovich, Chris.	Macaulay, C. H.	Welsh, R. A.
Dutcher, G. S.	Mansell, C. B.	Wood, J. G. C.
Davidson, C. N.	Mahoney, E. C.	Waterman, W. J.
De Forest, H. J.	Macdonell, D. G.	Wilson, Jas.

DEMITTED.

Flummerfelt, W. E.

McKarracker, J. F.

Turner, H. B.

CASCADE LODGE No. 12—Continued.**FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.**

Lambert, A. C. Stephens, T. J.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Boak, A. A.	Hall, Alfred	Smith, James
Bledsoe, J. F.	Nichol, W. C.	Walker, E. A.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Buxton, J. M. Vanhorne, Paul C.

SPALLUNCHEEN LODGE, No. 13,**ARMSTRONG, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the Full Moon
of each month.

OFFICERS.

Becker, Chas. J.....Wor. Master	Schubert, Chas. T....Senior Deacon
Barnes, Fred'k.....Senior Warden	Fletcher, Thos. Wm...Jun. Deacon
Harris, H. E. C.....Junior Warden	Clinton, Thos. ....Inner Guard
Pelly, Richard Stuart.....Secretary	Laur, Jacob .....Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Costerton, Clement F. McLeod, Norman

MASTER MASONS

Barnard, Frank	Hassard, Frank	Reinhard, Wm.
Fenton, Wm. J.	Kenny, Noah Holt	Reham, Walter S.
Donovan, Michael J.	Keys, Hugh	Sinclair, Hugh
Forbes, A. F.	Lambley, Chas. A. K.	Walton, Lancelot
Hall, Wm.	McDonald, Arch'd	Wood, John Wm. H.
Hamilton, Wm.	McLeod, John	Wright, Jas. Milton

DEMITTED.

Hanson, Reg. E.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Hadley, Louis Albert

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14,**COURTENAY, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the Full Moon
of each month.

OFFICERS.

Cavins, Thomas.....Wor. Master	Bridges, Chas.....Senior Deacon
Williams, Thos. ....Senior Warden	Mathewson, Wm. A., P.M..J. Deacon
Holmes, Joseph B...Junior Warden	Millard, Harrison P., P.M..Steward
Urquhart, Alex. ....Treasurer	Reid, William .....Steward
McConnell, Ronald S.....Secretary	Stewart, Hugh, P.M....Inner Guard
Beckonsell, Thos., P.M....Chaplain	Berkley, John R.....Tyler
Oliffe, Samuel J..Dir. of Ceremonies	

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14—Continued.**PAST MASTERS.**

Cock, Fred L.

Grant, Robert

MASTER MASONS.

Brown, Thos.
Cowle, Alexander
Gillmore, Robert
Graham, Robt.
Grleve, Joseph
Howe, Geo.

McAllan, Wm.
Moore, C. J.
Muschamp, E.
Piercey, John
Piercey, Thos. H.

Read, Geo.
Rennison, Arthur
Robbins, Fenwick W.
Roseborough, Thos.
Viles, Wm.

DEMITTED.

Edwards, Thomas

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Sealer, Alexander

SUSPENDED.

Grant, Kenneth

KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15,**REVELSTOKE, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Barber, J. Guy.....	Wor. Master	Mather, W.....	Senlor Deacon
Hallen, Charles	Senlor Warden	McRae, A.....	Junlor Deacon
Flindt, G. S.....	Junior Warden	Kelle, J. M.....	Steward
Taylor, T. E. L.....	Treasurer	Hanbury, H.....	Steward
Pratt, H. J.....	Secretary	Donnelly, H.....	Inner Guard
Vall, J. W.....	Chaplain	Aman, C. J.....	Tyler
Allan, J. G.....	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Bourne, H. J.
Crage, W. F.

Fraser, F.

Temple, C. H.

MASTER MASONS.

Bain, T. W.
Coursler, H. N.
Cummins, A.
Gordon, Robt.
Lawson, B. A.
Lee, W. J.

Little, J.
Mesley, F.
McCarter, Geo. S.
McCarty, F.
McGregor, A.
Randall, A.

Robinson, Dan
Ross, W. E.
Smythe, H. E.
Stormont, W.
Strachan, D.
Walton, P.

DEMITTED.

Johnson, H. O.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Kilby, John F.

Vickers, W. H.

SUSPENDED.

Kegler, F.

Morgan, David

Paul, A.

**PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16,
MISSION CITY, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Wednesday on or before the Full Moon
of each month.

OFFICERS.

Catherwood, J. A.....Wor. Master	Choute, J. L.....Senior Deacon
Stewart, G.....Senior Warden	McFarlane, J. C.....Junior Deacon
Smith, S.....Junior Warden	Hewkin, J. ....Steward
Plumridge, James.....Treasurer	Huston, H.....Steward
Jones, E. T., P.M.....Secretary	Jenkins, A. H.....Inner Guard
Barker, J.....Dir. of Cer'monies	Keeves, James .....Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Bond, E. J.	MacLean, J. D.	York, L. C.
Downes, T. J. L.	Shook, M. F.	

MASTER MASONS

Barry, Chas.	Fraser, N.	Morrison, M.
Boldrick, F. W.	Gourley, J.	Malcolm, James
Clair, W. F.	Gourley, R.	McMillan, H.
Dawson, John	Hannah, S.	Nichols, Thos.
Duncan, A.	Jewell, Geo.	Rabling, T. H.
Esplen, R. J.	Johnson, Ole	Stewart, Thos.
Fossett, Chas.	Long, R. J.	
Fooks, H.	Munro, Alex.	

DEMITTED.

McTaggart, Geo.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Webb, John

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Lennon, Jos. Pratt, F. W.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Stewart, W. S.

SUSPENDED.

McGillivray, Wm.

**KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Brine, A. J.....Wor. Master	Welsh, Chas. A.....Senior Deacon
Fisher, C. C.....Senior Warden	Gilchrist, D. W.....Junior Deacon
May, Robert .....Junior Warden	Sayer, Robt.....Steward
Howay, F. W.....Treasurer	Walker, David.....Steward
Shirley, J. H., P.M.....Secretary	Jones, W. A, Dashwood..Inner Guard
Scouler, Rev. Thos.....Chaplain	Forrester, J. J. (not a mem.)..Tyler

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17—Continued.

PAST MASTERS.

Armstrong, T. J.	Fraser, A. M.	McAskell, M.
Boggs, G. W.	Lewis, L. A.	Vanstone, W. E.
Cunningham, Geo.	Manson, Wm. (Hon.)	

MASTER MASONS.

Adams, David	Garrett, Alex.	Munn, L. G.
Allen, J. C.	Gifford, Thos.	McClughan, John
Andrews, W.	Gowen, Rev. H. H.	McDonald, D. A.
Barclay, D.	Grant, L. Murray.	McQuarrie, N. H.
Beall, H. D.	Grey, F. S. De	Nelson, Nels
Brackett, J. A.	Haines, E. W.	Peebles, Peter
Brooke, Herbert	Harris, F. W.	Ritchie, Geo.
Campbell, J. A.	Henderson, R. A.	Sampson, T.
Carty, John	Kirk, H. T.	Schaake, Hy.
Cooksley, W. T.	Kirkland, E. L.	Shaw, Fletcher
Dairon, D.	Marshall, Ben.	Strople, S. N.
Digby, J. C.	Miller, Wellington.	Young, C. S.

DEMITTED.

McPherson, Sam	McLennan, M. D.	Stein, J. W.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Foulds, P. J.	Reld, R. L.	Sprott, J. H.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Brown, N. R.	Prael, F. W.	McDonald, Hugh.
Falding, W. H.	Strichcombe, E. B.	McFarlane, R. McF.
Ovens, Thos.		

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Bule, John

SUSPENDED.

Ballantyne, J. B.	Campbell, Wm.	Salt, E. G. W.
Crane, Hy.	McLean, J. M.	

RESTORED.

Peebles, Peter

DORIC LODGE, No. 18.

NANAIMO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Friday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Alexander, Dalton G...	Wor. Master	Meakin, F. C.P.M....	Senior Deacon
Davies, Lewis, F. P.M.	Sen. Warden	Morrow, Hugh.....	Junior Deacon
Curry, Robert.....	Junior Warden	McRae, R.....	Steward
Dobeson, Thomas....	Treasurer	Trawford, Charles J...	Inner Guard
Schisler, Hiram L.....	Secretary	Barnes, E. C. (non-member)...	Tyler
McCulsh, Nell....	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Haslam, Andrew	Pleace, John H.	Young, F. McB.
Morton, William H.		

DORIC LODGE, No. 18—Continued.

MASTER MASONS.

Anderson, Alexander	Kelly, W. J. D.	Norris, W. E.
Burn, Edgar Oswald	Kelst, Richard	Neen, Jacob
Crossan, James	Mills, Thomas	Richardson, Thos.
Drysdale, W. F.	McKinnon, Alexander	Stickles, C. H.
Davidson, J. H.	McRae, D. A.	Wylie, John
Davis, A. A.	McKinnell, David	Young, W. A.
Dempsey, Hugh	McGregor, James	
Evans, Robert	Newcombe, Holmes	

DEMITTED.

Dawson, Henry	McKechnie, Robert E.	Youill, S. B.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Rickson, Thomas

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Barlow, George D.	Little, W. Alexander
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Walmsley, Matthew

SUSPENDED.

Smith, J. H.	Yarwood, E. M.
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IONIC LODGE, No. 19,

CHILLIWACK, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Friday on or before the Full Moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

Rose, W. A.....	Wor. Master	Reade, G. B.....	Senlor Deacon
Pelly, J.....	Senlor Warden	Johnson, I.....	Junior Deacon
Lindell, A. F.....	Junior Warden	Ashwell, G. H. W....	Senlor Steward
Reeves, C. B., P.M.....	Treasurer	Kickbush, F. C.....	Junior Steward
Wilson, P. H.....	Secretary	Jackman, W. T.....	Inner Guard
Ferris, W. F.....	Chaplain	Gillanders, A. H., P.M.....	Tyler

PAST MASERS.

Cawley, S. A.	Mellard, S.	Palsley, L. W.
Logan, J. A.	Nelson, A. M.	

MASTER MASONS.

Bromley, Jos.	Kingcombe, E.	Webb, J. F.
Campbell, J. A.	Klpp, H.	Vedder, A. S.
Cruikshanks, A. A.	McRae, P. R.	Trethewey, A.
Collinson, H. H.	McDonald, W. C.	Spettigue, W. S.
Driscoll, A.	Reid, C. H.	Smith, H. N.
Hatch, C. J.	Nowell, R.	Sharpe, T. A.
Hall, W. A.	Mercer, Jr., Alex.	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Atkinson, J. L.	McBeath, D.	Webb, H.
Car, seil, E. J.	McGillivray, D.	Scott, Jos.
Dunn, R.		

SUSPENDED.

Dickson, W. H.

MIRIAM LODGE, No. 20,**VERNON, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday on or before the Full Moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

McClintock, E. S. V.....	Wor. Master	Lambly, Robert	Senior Deacon
O'Brien, M. J.....	Senior Warden	Crowley, David.....	Junior Deacon
Boyce, R. F.....	Junior Warden	Weeks, Joseph.....	Inner Guard
Simms, C. D.....	Treasurer	Robson, Thos. W.....	Tyler
Burnyeat, J. P., P.M.....	Secretary		

PAST MASTERS.

Highman, John	Megraw, Alusley	Norris, Leonard
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MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, W. J.	Cutler, Ira	Morrow, Fred.
Blair, Thomas	Gilham, Austin	Shatford, W. T.
Bailey, E. R.	Haws, R. C.	White, Reginald B.
Billings, Fred.	McGowen, Frank	
Calbeck, Henry	Morris, Osborne	

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21,**WELLINGTON, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Last Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Wilson, David	Wor. Master	Greaves, Fred'k W..	Junior Deacon
Gear, Robert.....	Senior Warden	Evans, David Maurice.....	Steward
Hughes, Henry.....	Junior Warden	Rumsby, James....	Steward
Kerr, John	Treasurer	Auchinvole, Alexander..	Inner Guard
Hygh, Geo. E.....	Secretary	Watson, Robert	Tyler
Fraser, Wm. Gilbert...	Sen. Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Bald, William	Stephenson, David	Stewart, William
Frame, John (honorary)		

MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, Samuel	Hamburger, Moses	Merman, Emile Joseph
Bailey, Richard	Hay, Robert	McRae, John
Cartwright, James	Jeffries, Joseph	Mitchell, George
Davidson, John	Jessup, Grant	McMillan, Peter
Edwards, John D.	Jones, William	McKay, John McLeod
Fisher, Fred. Charles	Kilpatrick, Robt. Wm.	Norcross, Jas. Edward
Gillespie, John	McMurtie, Andrew J.	Paterson, David
Gould, Isaac	Matheson, Murdock	Spratt, Thomas
Hawes, Fred'k Wm.	Mathews, John	Wasson, Jno. Hilliard
Haigh, John	McLeod, Angus	Young, Charles W.

DEMITTED.

Young, John.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21—Continued.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Griffiths, David Kerr, Archibald Williams, Edward

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Gould, Isaac Kerr, William

SUSPENDED.

Scott, John Henry

ACACIA LODGE, No. 22,

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

McKinnon, D.	Wor. Master	Larney, F. C.	Senior Deacon
Hicks, V.	Senior Warden	Holloway, C. F.	Junior Deacon
Hamilton, P. S.	Junior Warden	Bethune, Alex.	Steward
Bowser, F., P.M.	Treasurer	Adams, Albert N.	Steward
Stewart, A. C.	Secretary	Fraser, R.	Inner Guard
Clinton, H. G. F.	Chaplain	Mitchell, Sr., T.	Tyler
Leonard, G. C.	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Brydon-Jack, W. D.	Rickers, John W.	Yates, Chas. F.
Michell, Theo., jr.		

MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, Andrew	Fetherston, R. D.	Morris, J. M.
Astell, Sebastian	Frith, Louis Edwin	Moorcroft, Albert
Anderson, R. A.	Griffiths, Benjamin	McIsaac, Archibald
Adamson, Robert	Harris, Daniel	Saunders, Charles
Christie, Frank L.	Henderson, Harold M.	Stretch, Thos. P.
Cameron, Geo. A.	Hibbert, John	Smith, Alexander
Corrigan, Francis	Howard, Edward	Syder, E. F.
De Pencier, Henry	Jamieson, Geo. W.	Stuart, Chas. G.
Doherty, Isaac W.	Jackson, J. W.	Tidy, Thos. A.
Duncanson, Thomas	Jordan, C. W.	Wescott, W. S.
Dunn, Bertrand F.	Jackson, Chas. A.	Wells, Malcolm R.
Edmonds, Edwd Thurse	Kay, James B.	Willsher, Albert, Edw.
Elligh, William	Lille, Thos. W.	
Edgett, Arthur	Little, Mark	

DEMITTED.

Perry, H. H.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Hastie, Douglas B.	Patience, Wm. Jas.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

McEachern, John	Seaton, Wm. J.
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SUSPENDED.

Johnson, John

NELSON LODGE, No. 23,**NELSON, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Shaw, Samuel Poole...Wor. Master	La Bau, Dr. David....Senior Deacon
Irvine, Fred.....Senior Warden	Day, Richard W.....Junior Deacon
Connon, Harry.....Junior Warden	Kirkpatrick, J. A.....Steward
Pollard, W. B.....Treasurer	Dewar, J. A.....Steward
Johnstone, Geo., P.M.....Secretary	Crandon, Chas. H.....Inner Guard
Frew, Rev. R.....Chaplain	Maltby, Chas.....Tyler
Sutcliffe, Ell, P.M....Dir. of Ceres.	

PAST MASTERS.

Arthur, Dr. E. C.	Jowett, W. A.	Quinlan, W. J. (hon. m.)
Byers, Hamilton (hon. m.)	Lennox, G. L.	Ragless, Wm.
Dundee, Chas.	McLeod, N. T.	Turner, J. A.
Fletcher, Frank	Newton, W. M.	
Hamilton, John	Pearcy, W. S.	

MASTER MASONS.

Barrow, A. R.	Hayward, Geo. F.	Park, Wm.
Beasley, H. E.	Hodge, Geo. C.	Parry, Melville S.
Beer, E. G.	Hodgins, A. E.	Proctor, Thos. G.
Beer, G. S.	Holdich, A. H.	Riley, Wm. Chas.
Bell, John	Holt, Grange V.	Roberts, Wm.
Brockman, Sydney	Howe, Wm. W.	Robertson, J. Roderick
Brown, C. S. M.	Hudson, Wm. B.	Rosendale, Otto M.
Clark, David	Irwin, Richard	Scully, M.
Clements, F. S.	Jackson, J. Harry	Senkler, E. C.
Constans, Alf. E. W.	Kellaway, Geo. S.	Shaw, W. B.
Crease, E. A.	Kinghorn, R. S.	Sherwood, A. R.
Dewys, M. S.	Kydd, Geo.	Sims, Thos. J.
Dover, Jacob	Lawrence, James	Sproat, G. H. S.
Driscoll, J. J.	Love, James H.	Stanley, Gilbert
Dufresne, John C.	Marks, A. J.	Taylor, S. S.
Evans, Henry J.	Mills, Thos. A.	Teetzel, W. F.
Fleming, Sidney A.	Moore, Frank Dana	Toye, John
Forin, Dr. Alex.	McDonald, W. A.	Vincent, H. M.
French, Chas.	McFarland, Frank L.	Walby, H. M.
Gordon, John G.	McFarland, Duncan A.	Waterman, Chas. A.
Green, Frank C.	McVay, John	Wehr, Robt.
Hall, Dr. G. A. B.	Nolan, J. H.	Wilson, W. J.
Hampson, J.	Nolan, S. H.	Wright, Harry H.

DEMITTED.

Schrivver, Hiram, Jr. Emerson, F. C.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Speers, John M. Downey, Melvin M.

RESTORED.

Stanley, Gilbert.

UNITED SERVICE, No. 24, ESQUIMALT, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Woodgate, Thos. E. N...W. Master	Hale, Alfred H.....Jun. Deacon
Bailey, Frederick Jas..Sen. Warden	Gabriel, John.....Senior Steward
Bainbridge, Rich. T...Jun. Warden	Day, John.....Junior Steward
Phillips, George .....Treasurer	Lay, John Carter.....Inner Guard
Olford, Richard E.....Secretary	Hammond, Charles .....Tyler
Barber, Rev. Wm. Davin..Chaplain	Piper, Thomas.... ....Organist
Russell, Benjamin H..Dir. of Ceres.	Logan, Hugh...Asst. Dir. of Ceres.
Slow, Wm. Arthur.....Sen. Deacon	

PAST MASTERS.

Beatley, John Jas.	Muir, Archibald C.	Sharp, Rev. Cato E.
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MASTER MASONS.

Andrews, Jas. (hon. m.)	Foden, Geo. Alex.	Rissland, Herrman F. L.
Battcock, John	Goodwin, Wm. A.	Roberts, Thos. Dyer
Brown, A. S.	Garlick, Geo. Edwin	Stanford, Arthur E.
Brown, Geo. Wm.	Higgitt, Wm. A.	Tennent, Thos. Hastings
Benney, Geo. Griffon	Horswell, Jas. Chas.	Tranter, Jack
Conway, E.	Isbister, James	Wells, Arthur F.
Evans, Daniel	Phillips, Wm. Thos.	Wall, Edmond J.
Fox, Albert E.	Phillips, J. E. H.	
Fairall, Henry Smith	Rankin, Richard F.	

DEMITTED.

Burgess, Henry T.	Higham, Harry	Stevens, Charles
Bown, George H.	Harding, Edward	Welsh, John
Cleave, Richard Chas.	Hammond, Henry E.	Wells, Edwin R.
Dockree, Edwin H.	Lambert, George	Young, John
Eve, Benjamin	Mytton, Thos. Piercy	
Fletcher, Geo. Fred'k	Reason, Edward H.	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Fife, Thomas	Gadsbay, Thomas
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SUSPENDED.

Harvey, John Edward

KASLO LODGE, No. 25,

KASLO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Townsend, Frank R...Wor. Master	Menzies, Alex.....Junior Deacon
Giegerich, Henry....Senior Warden	Morris, Arch. B .....Steward
Swainson, Geo. H...Junior Warden	Smith, Ed. I.....Steward
Goodenough, A. W.....Treasurer	Walker, John .....Inner Guard
Chipman, E. E., P.M.....Secretary	McNell, John .....Tyler
Parkinson, Geo.....Senior Deacon	

KASLO LODGE, No. 25—Continued.

PAST MASTERS.

Beyers, Hamilton
Green, Robt. F.

Henry, John

Martin, Geo. E.

MASTER MASONS.

Bamfather, Wm. R.
Becker, Edward
Beers, Henry, Rev.
Bradley, John C.
Caldwell, John A.
Cameron, John M.
Carlson, Gustaf A.
Crawford, Dan'l A.
Cummins, Frank E.
English, William
Fletcher, Arch, McL.
Franke, Henry
Green, Samuel H.

Hartin, Gilbert, Dr.
Hunter, William
Johnson, Nels T.
Kelley, John M.
King, Grant M.
McAndrew, M. P.
McAnn, Chas. W.
McIntosh, John F.
McMillan, Duncan
Nelson, August
Nivin, Fred C.
Peters, Jas. S.

Roberts, Abraham L.
Stewart, Alex.
Stott, George
Twiss, Wm. J.
Weir, Duncan J.
Wells, Emerson E.
Wells, Thos. C.
West, W. W.
White, Bruce
Wilson, Thos. H.
Wing, S. C.
Yull, Robt.

DEMITTED.

Bongard, Daniel

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Hawatt, McPhee.

SUSPENDED.

Cameron, H. A.
Cameron R. R.

Marshall, A. S.
Mighton, S. A.

Strathearn, Robt.

CUMBERLAND LODGE, No. 26,

CUMBERLAND, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Friday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Irwin, Thos.....	Wor. Master	Robertson, Robt.....	Junior Deacon
Mitchell, Wm.....	Senior Warden	Cessford, Robt.....	Senior Deacon
Baird, John.....	Junior Warden	Giddings, John	Inner Guard
Thompson, John	Treasurer	Tarbell, Chas., P.M.....	Tyler
Mounce, Lewis, P.M.....	Secretary		

PAST MASTERS.

Abrams, James
Clinton, Geo. W.

Logan, Rev. J. A.
Rogers, John Y.

Sharp, Kendrick
Williams, John

MASTER MASONS.

Dunne, Patrick
Edwards, R. P.
Hudson, R. H.
Lawrence, Robert
Marrochi, John

McGregor, Henry
McFadyen, Nell
Robertson, John
Reid, James

Ryder, C. S., Jr.
Stevenson, David
Sargent, Jonah
Van Houten, Chas.

DEMITTED.

Eckstein, L. P.
Ferguson, W. B.

Grant, Alex.

Lindsay, Alex.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Carev, Thos. H.

Hudson, Thomas.

Westwood, John

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Walker, Jos.

Crawford, Frank

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 27,**ROSSLAND, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Hering, George.....	Wor. Master	Kerr, Donald E.....	Dir. of Ceres.
Olute, Jr., John S....	Senior Warden	Kinty, Isaac B.....	Senior Deacon
Killam, Geo. R.....	Junior Warden	French, Frank E.....	Junior Deacon
Kirkup, John	Treasurer	McKay, Geo. C.....	Steward
Gavin, Wm. H. S.....	Secretary	Dunlop, John	Steward
Bristow, Frank, P.M.....	Chaplain	Carver, Seneca	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Balderson, Geo.	Goodeve, A. S.	Reddick, Robt.
Cooper, W. H.	Raymer, H. J.	Taylor, Geo. N.
Dunn, Wm. N.		

MASTER MASONS.

Algiers, F. S.	Jean, Wm.	Paulin, Ovid E.
Allen, Alex.	Jameson, J. W.	Parker, J. L.
Anderson, A. E.	Konka, Fred	Parker, Thomas
Anderson, James M.	Lillyegran, E. W.	Perline, F. J.
Archer, W. C.	Kenning, A. W.	Pratt, Wm. A.
Barnes, James	Kelley, E. J.	Rymer, Frank
Binn, Jay	Manchester, A. B.	Rammelmeyer, Ernest
Blue, Louis	Morand, Theo.	Richardson, G. W.
Coombs, Lee	Morris, David	Ross, Chas. G.
Coulthard, W. L.	Monyahan, J. J.	Rugh, W. S.
Craig, Joseph	Moore, J. W.	Sanders, Ed. E.
Carpenter, Wm. J.	Moore, J. A. J.	Sinclair, A. C.
Dreyfous, Emil.	Martin, Wm. C.	Simpson, M. W.
Edgren, John	Martin, Harry	Smith, Wm. A.
Fisher, John C.	McKeown, J. G.	Smith, Archer W.
Forrester, Allen	McInnis, N. L.	Sullivan, Michael
Fraser, Geo. L.	McCraney, H. P.	Sutherland, Wm.
Fraser, Donald	McNeill, A. H.	Taylor, A. P.
Gordon, Geo. R.	McDonald, B. R.	Thomas, I. N.
Gage, W. H.	McDonald, R. C.	Tregear, N. T.
Gibson, Wm.	McKenzie, Norman	Williams, Jas. B.
Gauthier, Frank X.	McIntosh, Harry	Wallace, H. S.
Harris, Wm. J.	McLean, Henry	Webster, E. B.
Hayes, W. T.	McQueen, Wm.	Wilson, Alex.
Hutchens, R. H.	McKellar, David	Wood, Wm. M.
Hunter, Robert	Oliver, W. T.	

DEMITTED.

Ashwell, Geo.	May, John F.	Woodward, J. D.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Dennison, P. G.	Matson, John B.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Baldwin, A. C.	Ritchie, Fred.	Wiley, Herbert
Creelman, A. G.	Thompson, Ross	

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Erechman, Geo.

SUSPENDED.

Bigelow, Jesse

GREENWOOD LODGE, No. 28,**GREENWOOD, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Black, Alfred S.....	Wor. Master	Grier, James W.....	Senior Deacon
MacFarlane, J. H.....	Sen. Warden	Birnie, James.....	Junior Deacon
Palmer, W. D.....	Junior Warden	McMynn, W. G.....	Steward
Wood, Robert	Treasurer	Flood, J. P.....	Steward
Coates, Robt. F.....	Secretary	Butler, Thos. Q.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Galloway, C. Scott.

MASTER MASONS.

Corlett, Wm. A.	Johns, Henry	Parkinson, Thos.
Elliott, Hugh R.	Leonard, Walter L.	Roach, Sydney H.
Foster, Geo. M.	Miller, Martin E.	Seymour, Geo. E.
Haas, J. C.	McDonald, J. H.	Stevens, James M.
Hardy, Thos. J.	Nicholson, Ernest	Stuart, R. G. K.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Elkins, F. M.	Jakes, R. W.	Phalen, M. J.
Hemenway, J. F.		

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Brice, Geo. A.	McLaren, Donald	Smalles, Ralph
Gulley, Thos. M.	McLeod, John P.	Mullen, Orrin S.

ALTA LODGE, No. 29,**SANDON, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Lilly, William H.....	Wor. Master	Sewell, F. C.....	Senior Deacon
Grimmett, M. L.....	Senior Warden	Dockstader, A. B....	Junior Deacon
Pitts, H. H.....	Junior Warden	Walton, Brinsley M.....	Steward
Crawford, Alex.....	Treasurer	Striet, Joseph J.....	Steward
Brown, Thomas	Secretary	Lowe, G. F.....	Inner Guard
Grimmett, G. W.....	Chaplain	Cameron, Ewen A.....	Tyler
McQueen, E. F.....	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Byers, Hamilton (hon.m)	Bernard, I. W.
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MASTER MASONS

Atherton, Edwin R.	Gintzburger, Maurice	McTaggart, Robert
Beck, Aug.	Hawke, J. H.	Mighton, S. A.
Carlson, John M.	Hickey, P. J.	Milne, Thomas
Cleland, John A.	Hill, Ben B.	Moore, J. T.
Crawford, Ewen F.	Hunter, Chas. D.	Nash, Harry
Cunning, Robert	Jones, J. E.	Sandilands, E. M.
Dockstader, John	McArthur, A. C.	Wood, J. E.
Doolan, Lawrence	McMillan, Alex.	

DEMITTED.

Wilson, C. M.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Faraday, J. L.	Hilton, Ralph A.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Sandford, Albert M.	Souter, John	Wills, William R.
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NORTH STAR LODGE, No. 30,**FORT STEELE, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Procunier, C. Ault.....	Wor. Master	McBride, James D.....	Jun. Deacon
McVittle, Henry H.....	Senior Warden	Grassick, John.....	Steward
Goff, J. R.....	Junior Warden	Gretz, Albert.....	Steward
Bleasdel, A. W.....	Sec'y and Treas.	Elton, E. A.....	Inner Guard
Armstrong, Jas. F.....	Sen. Deacon	Mather, Robt. D.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Ross, Wm. R.

MASTER MASONS.

Beattie, Robt. E.	Gilpin, Geo. H.	Santo, Wm. S.
Chadwick, Arch. T.	Herchlmer, H. W.	Scott, Geo. H.
Curran, Nell McL.	King, James H.	Shier, Robt. G.
Downie, Arthur	McBride, Frank A.	Small, E. H.
Galbraith, Robt. L. T.	McCabe, Frank	Watt, Hugh.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Barnes, Henry W.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Bonnell, Samuel

Cameron, John A.

YMIR LODGE, U. D.**YMIR, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Friday of each month

OFFICERS.

Burne, John F., P.M.....	Wor. Master	Brown, Chas. A.....	Senior Deacon
McLeod, John.....	Senior Warden	Clark, Wm.....	Junior Deacon
Morris, Grant.....	Junior Warden	Hellberg, Hugo.....	Steward
DesBrisay, Solomon.....	Treasurer	Weir, Chas.....	Steward
McVicar, John.....	Secretary	McAulay, Malcolm.....	Tyler

MASTER MASONS.

Addle, Thos. H.	Finlay, James	Kelley, Eber J.
Campbell, Joseph	Glover, W. R.	Vandebogart, Ledrew K.
Cline, John	Pitre, Joseph	White, Phillip

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

McLeod, Daniel

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Barnhart, G. H.

FIDELITY LODGE, U. D.**TRAIL, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Friday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Munter, William	Wor. Master	Chapman, D. H.....	Junior Deacon
Schofield, J. H.....	Senior Warden	Jelly, D. J.....	Steward
McDonald, P. D.....	Junior Warden	Usborne W.....	Steward
Flinn, H. M.....	Secretary	Beerg, Louis J. D.....	Tyler
Hayes, W. T.....	Senior Deacon		

MASTER MASONS.

Anderson, John D.	Campbell, A. E.	Perdue, R. M.
Barclay, Donald	Dauber, J. G.	Preston, Robert
Byers, J. P.	Gray, Tom C.	Shields, D. C.
Croissart, Victor Geo.	Kerr, Geo. Wm.	
Chatterton, H. V. O.	McTaggart, George	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Johnson, Lausen M. Thompson, Peter

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Johnson, August	Mortimer, Geo.	Shepley, Francis Kerby
McDiarmid, D. J.	Peterson, S. F.	

CRANBROOK LODGE, U. D.**CRANBROOK, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Moffat, Alex., P.M....	Wor. Master	Mackenzie, Wm. L...	Junior Deacon
Tate, Wm. F.....	Senior Warden	Davidson, D. H.....	Steward
Beattie, Robert E....	Junior Warden	Steeves, Reuben	Steward
Ryan, James	Treasurer	Bell, W. S.....	Inner Guard
Johnson, George	Secretary	McNeill, Robert S.....	Tyler
King, James H.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Morrow, Geo. L. Schofield, James H.

MASTER MASONS.

Grant, A. D.	Leitch, Geo. A.	Rankin, F. C.
Gurd, W. F.	McMillan, Hugh D.	Rockendorf, Mat.
Hunt, P. DeV.	McDuff, John	Smythe, J. W. H.
Leask, John	McKenzie, Alex.	
Leitch, Archibald	McNabb, J. R.	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS

Medhurst, F. M.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Clapp, Edwin F. Christian, Thos. H.

TEMPLE LODGE, U. D.**DUNCANS, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

Frame, John, P.M.....	Wor. Master	Evans, James.....	Senior Deacon
Smith, Harry.....	Senior Warden	Mutter, J. M.....	Junior Deacon
Robinson, Samuel ..	Junior Warden	Treadal, Louis H.....	Inner Guard
Gidley, Wm., P.M.....	Treasurer	Hollings, H. S.....	Tyler
Dobson, Christopher	Secretary		

MASTER MASONS.

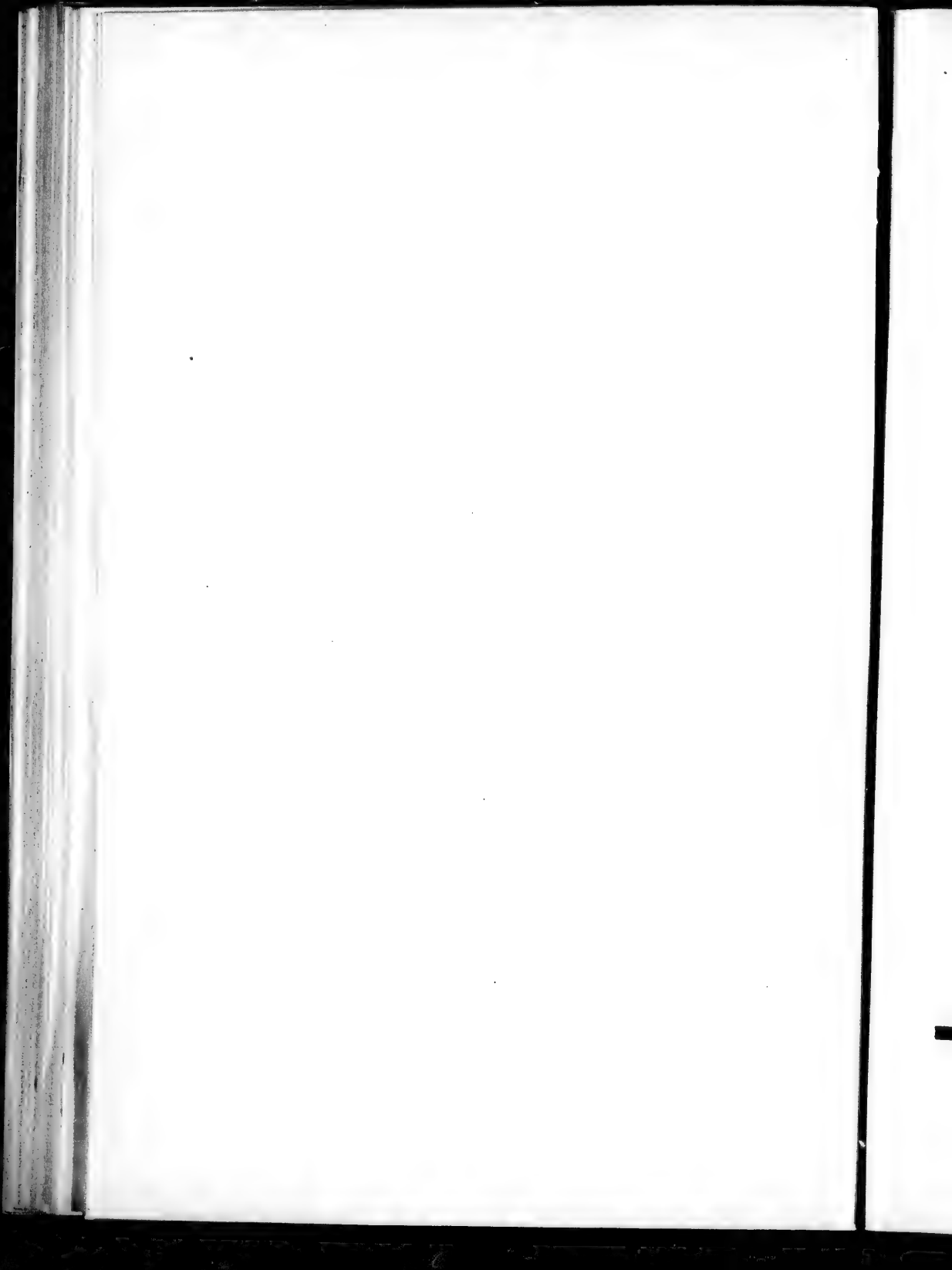
Addington, Herbert H.	Gibson, James S.	Richardson, Jas. W.
Calder, Edward	Hands, Jonathan G.	Thurston, A. J.
Dickle, Charles Herbert	Lucas, Melville Franklin	Whittome, Jas. Henry
Erb, Samuel	Maitland-Dougall, James	
	St. Leger	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Pitt, Thomas

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Price, Ernest Alfred	Telford, Robert	Wood, Thos. Anthony
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IN MEMORIAM.

FREDERICK WILLIAMS,

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE No. 1.

PAST GRAND MASTER.

THOMAS TROUNCE,

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE No. 1.

PAST GRAND MASTER.

DIXI H. ROSS,

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE No. 2.

PAST SENIOR GRAND WARDEN.

HARRY McDERMOTT,

CARIBOO LODGE No. 4.

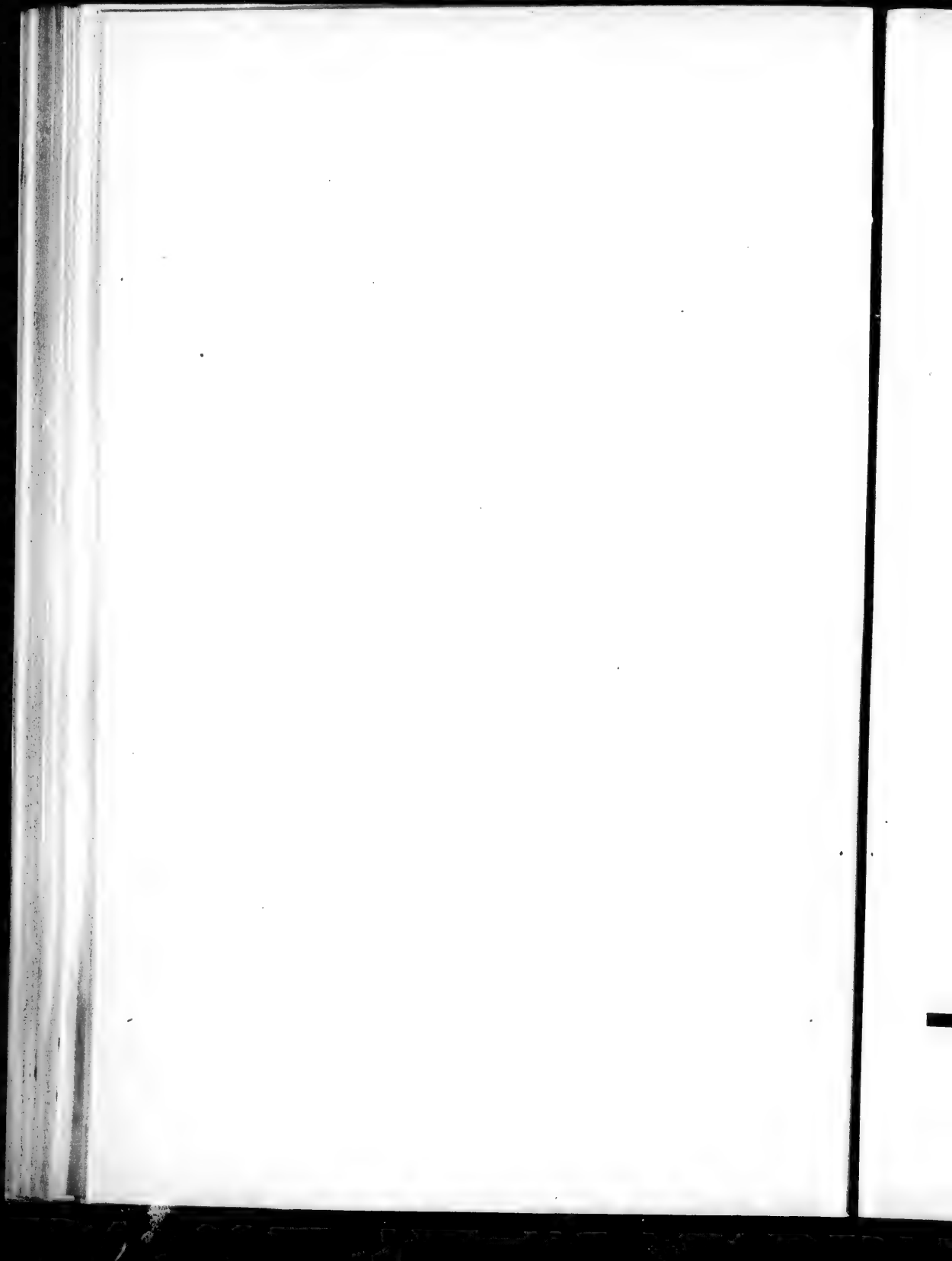
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

IN MEMORIAM.

THE FRATERNAL DEAD

- OF -

SISTER JURISDICTIONS.



IN MEMORIAM.
—
THE FRATERNAL DEAD
- OF -
THIS JURISDICTION.

—
MASTER MASONS.
—

COLIN C. MCKENZIE
DAVID HARRIS
WM. TROUNCE
JOSEPH LITTLE
JOHN BUIE
BENJ. DOUGLASS
JAMES V. RANKIN
CHARLES R. SLATER
PAUL C. VANHORN
J. M. BUXTON
W. S. STEWART
MATTHEW WAMSLEY
GEORGE ERCHMAN

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REPORT

ON

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

To the Brethren of British Columbia:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence present herewith their annual review of the Proceedings of most of the Grand Lodges with which we maintain friendly relations. Arkansas is missing because no session was held last year. Mississippi, Tasmania and Victoria have not been received.

The "negro question" has become somewhat less acute. The Grand Lodge of Washington in 1899 rescinded its now famous resolutions of 1898, and while a few Grand Lodges still insist that the language of the resolutions of 1899 "is not all that it ought to be," the larger number of them seem disposed to accept the action of Washington as in *bona fides* and have resumed the fraternal intercourse which should never have been interrupted.

Another important matter is the formation of the new Grand Lodge of Western Australia—a matter to which we have devoted considerable space (but not more than it deserves) in our reviews of England and New South Wales.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. A. Dwoefleuich". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Chairman.".

Chairman.

ALABAMA.

79th Annual Communication.

Montgomery.

5th December, 1899.

In beginning his Annual Address, the Grand Master extends a hearty welcome to the brethren, and congratulates them upon the favorable auspices under which they meet.

Sixty-one decisions are reported, all of which appear to be based upon sound common sense. We copy those that appear to be of more than local interest.

1. When a member, suspended for non-payment of dues, pays all arrearages, both those for which he was suspended, and those accruing since his suspension, he thereby becomes reinstated without action of the lodge.

3. A lodge has no right to grant a dimit until all arrearages are paid or remitted.

4. When a member who is clear of all indebtedness to the lodge makes application for a dimit, the lodge has no discretion but must either grant a dimit or prefer charges.

7. It is the right and duty of a lodge to proceed against an offending Brother, a member of another lodge, living in its jurisdiction, and the fact that he is a member of the Grand Lodge does not alter the course of procedure.

10. A Brother who was made a Mason in Tennessee before the Civil War, desires to become a member of a lodge in Alabama. He states that the records of the lodge in which he was made a Mason were destroyed by fire, and the records of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee were also burned during the war, hence it is impossible to get any record of his having been made a Mason.

Held—That, upon application, stating the above facts, and upon making proof of same, and that he was in good standing at the time his lodge became defunct, he may become affiliated, such application being treated as a dimit.

We should think that under the circumstances proof would be rather difficult to get, while the idea of calling an application a dimit is novel at least.

15. The Senior Warden succeeds to the duties, prerogatives and powers of the Master, in case of the death, inability or absence of the latter, while such inability or absence continues.

23. A gentleman desires to visit the lodge and presents a letter of recommendation from the lodge of which he claims he is a member, in another Grand Jurisdiction, signed by the W. M. and Secretary of the lodge with seal attached. He cannot stand an examination, should he be admitted?

Held—That a letter of recommendation or a dimit from a lodge is not sufficient evidence that its possessor is a Mason. Before admission into the lodge, he must be vouched for or pass a satisfactory examination.

Quite correct; we think both the papers and an examination should be required.

24. A gentleman, an engineer, petitioned a lodge in Georgia to be made a Mason, was reported favorably, balloted upon and duly elected, but a few days before the appointed time for him to be initiated he happened to an accident and his left leg was cut off just above his knee; now he has an artificial limb which he uses and can get in all positions necessary. Can he be made a Mason?

Held—That a man who has lost a leg, and has an artificial limb which he uses and can get in all positions necessary, does not possess the full enjoyment of all those limbs necessary for the reception and imparting of Masonic knowledge, and he is therefore physically disqualified from taking the degrees in Masonry.

Unfortunate for the candidate, but perfectly right, as is the next.

29. A man who has lost an arm, no matter what his qualifications otherwise, cannot be made a Mason.

30. Where there is a Public Installation, away from the lodge-room, it is not absolutely necessary that the Charter and other things placed in charge of the Master be carried there.

In which case the public installation could hardly be properly described as Masonic labor.

36. The ballot is sacredly secret, and no brother has a right to inquire or seek to find out how another voted.

37. One who has lost all the fingers of the right hand, except the little finger, is physically disqualified from taking the three degrees.

42. The degree of Past Master has nothing to do with the qualifications for office in a Master Mason's Lodge. No member of a lodge is eligible for election to the station of Worshipful Master, unless he has, at some time, been regularly elected and installed a Warden of a lodge.

43. It is un-Masonic for a brother, a member of a lodge, to disclose how he voted upon the application of a candidate to be initiated or advanced, and it is also un-masonic for him to declare before the election, how he will vote.

The Grand Master issued dispensations for four new Lodges; laid four corner-stones, and dedicated one Hall. A prominent member of Grand Lodge, W. Brother William Story Foster, fell before the "all-devouring scythe" of the Grim Reaper. Brother Foster was for fifteen years chair-

man of the Finance Committee, and in that position did much good work.

It does not appear that the Craft in Alabama are anxious to have a Masonic Home, the amount contributed for that purpose during the year being only \$22.44, bringing the fund to a total of \$89.04.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made a special report on the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington. We do not find the report anywhere, but it was referred to a special committee, whose report states that while Washington has nominally repealed its legislation of 1898 *re* Negro Masonry, yet practically it "is of the same opinion still," and they offer the following resolutions, which were adopted.

Resolved.—1st. That, in view of existing conditions, this Grand Lodge "does not see its way clear" to revoke, at this time, its action in withdrawing fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington.

2nd. That re-affirming our former action in this behalf we desire the Grand Lodge of Washington and all other Grand bodies to distinctly understand that we sincerely desire to preserve and perpetuate fraternal relations with them all, and to this end are ready at any future time to rescind our action with reference to the Grand Lodge of Washington whenever we can do so without a sacrifice of a principle which we deem essential to the purity of our order, and to the protection and preservation of true Masonic principles, usages and landmarks.

Alabama is one of the few Grand Lodges which refuse to accept the assurance of Washington that it has repealed the legislation objected to. We do not see how Alabama and the other Grand Lodges which still hold out, can now conscientiously maintain fraternal relations with those Jurisdictions which have recognized Washington.

A ritual for "A Lodge of Sorrow" was adopted, each lodge being allowed to fix the time of holding it.

A resolution was offered declaring :

That this Grand Lodge declares that its jurisdiction and that of its Subordinate Lodges, is extended to all territory, which is nearer to Subordinate Lodges, than to Subordinate Lodges in the Grand Jurisdictions of the Grand Lodges of Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee until such time as the said territory shall be occupied by the establishing of lodges therein. And that this Grand Lodge hereby concedes jurisdiction to each of the Grand Lodges named above, and to their Subordinate Lodges, all territory within the State

of Alabama which is nearer to a Subordinate Lodge, working under each of the said Grand Lodges, until such territory is occupied by the establishing of lodges therein.

The proposer of this resolution asked that consideration of it be deferred until the next Annual Communication, when it will probably be summarily dealt with. We fancy that the passage of a resolution of this kind would shatter the "Great American Doctrine of Grand Lodge Sovereignty" about as effectually as anything could.

The Grand Lodge decided that the fact that a man was engaged in the manufacture or sale of alcoholic liquors did not, of itself, prevent a Lodge from receiving his application. This decision was arrived at on hearing a report from the Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the decisions of Grand Master Bilbro (1898) were referred. The committee thinks that the qualifications for membership are already sufficiently defined, and that the question of admitting such candidates is one which may very properly be left to the individual Brother, who, if he considers the material unfit, has only to exercise his privilege of throwing a black ball.

Brother William Y. Titcomb, in a carefully prepared paper, reviews the doings of fifty-five Grand Lodges, many of them for two years. He thinks the Grand Lodge of Arizona is in error in the matter of having two forms of dimit. We, too, think there should be but one form of dimit for all, without any invidious distinctions. He offers a practical suggestion to the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, which is struggling under a load of debt. He suggests that the officers and members of that Grand Lodge dispense with their mileage and *per diem* for two years, which would make available sufficient funds to retire the debt. The remedy is simple, but, we are afraid, too simple to be availed of. Instead of that, Arkansas is stopping up the spigot of Reports on Foreign Correspondence while leaking at the bung of mileage and *per diem*.

While friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Mexico appear desirable to Brother Titcomb, he has no wish to see them established until the Great Lights of Masonry are firmly established on their altars, not "dividing the honors" with any uninspired volume. There are other objections, too, to the recognition of this Mexican hybrid, and we agree with Brother Titcomb that nothing will be lost by going slowly.

British Columbia for 1899 receives the compliment of an extended notice. M.W. Brother Wilson's Address is favorably mentioned, his remarks on the subject of dispensations being particularly approved of. Of the Report on Foreign Correspondence, Brother Titcomb speaks in the kindest manner. He thinks that if dual membership were allowed, a brother belonging to two Lodges might receive a summons to attend a meeting of each, which he would find difficult of accomplishment should the meeting of each be held on the same night. It *would* be a hard thing to do, unless the Brother were like Sir Boyle Roche's bird. Brother Titcomb is willing to admit, however, that such a contingency is very unlikely to arise, and as a matter of fact, in England, where a Brother may, and occasionally does, belong to five or six Lodges, we have never heard of such a thing happening.

We congratulate Brother Titcomb upon having fulfilled the hope raised by his first report, that Alabama had found a worthy successor to the lamented Palmer J. Pillans.

Chartered lodges, 377 ; members, 11,291.

M.W. B. Dudley Williams, Grand Master.

R.W. H. Clay Armstrong, Grand Secretary.

ARIZONA.

18th Annual Communication.

Tucson.

14th November, 1899.

The frontispiece of this modest volume is a portrait of M. W. Anthony A. Johns, Grand Master, who opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, British Columbia's representative not being present.

The Annual Address congratulates the Craft on their prosperity—numerically and financially. The decisions rendered were few, and relate mainly to local affairs. The first decides that all applicants for the degrees must be "not deformed or dismembered," and all were approved by the Grand Lodge.

An invitation to lay the corner-stone of a new school building was received from the School Trustees of Nogales, which, in view of the date at which it was received, the

Grand Master refers to Grand Lodge, which accepted the invitation. The Grand Master made several official visits, finding the Craft in each place visited to be flourishing. He suggests that no action be taken in the matter of "Negro Masonry."

A case of invasion of jurisdiction by an alleged Lodge holding under the *Gran Dieta*, was the subject of a complaint by one of the subordinate Lodges, which, apparently, had itself a good deal to blame for allowing the invading body the use of its Lodge-room. The Grand Master declined to interfere in the matter further than to say that if the complainant Lodge had any charges to make against the Mexican Lodge, and would formulate them properly, he would send them to the *Gran Dieta*.

The Grand Master recommends that care be exercised in granting relief; that some notice be taken of their brethren who engaged in the war with Spain; that provision be made to secure "uniformity of the work," and that a Report on Foreign Correspondence form part of their Proceedings in future. We hope the last recommendation may bear fruit next year.

The Grand Secretary, R.W. Geo. J. Roskruge, presented a very complete report. It and the report of the Grand Treasurer show the Craft to be making healthy growth. The number of Lodges in the Jurisdiction is fourteen, and the number of Master Masons 735, being a gain of 35 for the year.

In order to prevent any misconception, the Committee on Jurisprudence recommended the adoption of the following resolution :—

Resolved, That either a recommendatory certificate or a certificate of withdrawal without recommendation, as laid down in our Constitution, is a proper dimit, and entitles the Brother holding the same to apply for affiliation with another lodge in this Jurisdiction.

This, which was agreed to by the Grand Lodge, is intended to prevent a recurrence of the trouble they had a year or two ago with a Brother who had been granted a dimit without a recommendation, and who complained that he had been unjustly treated.

A peculiar case was brought before Grand Lodge in a communication from Brother A. Bachelier. This Brother,

while endeavoring to assist a peace officer in the discharge of his duty near the International boundary line, seized hold of a man, who fell partly in Mexico and partly in the United States. The man was arrested and lodged in jail in Arizona, but was released the next day and returned to Mexico. Brother Bachelier was charged by the Mexican authorities with having improperly arrested the man on Mexican territory. This charge has been pending since July, 1893, since which time he has been unable to cross the Mexican line. He will not appeal to the Mexican courts, as he thinks they are too pig-headed to acknowledge that they made a mistake. His own Lodge having declined to interfere in the matter he comes before Grand Lodge. "The influence of our Order," he says, "can remove this unjust oppression which weighs upon me, and I appeal to your body to take some action in my behalf therein." This petition was referred to the Committee on Correspondence, whose report (which was adopted by Grand Lodge) recommended that a full statement of the facts be forwarded through the proper channels to the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, with a request that the *Gran Dieta* consider the same, and if they thought well of it, solicit relief from the Federal authorities of Mexico.

This is a new channel for diplomatic correspondence which seems to be finding favor with our neighbors to the South. There is, if we mistake not, a United States Minister in Mexico who surely is the proper medium through which to make representations of this nature. Presuming that the facts are as stated it should not be difficult to show that Brother Bachelier had a legal right to at least so much of the man as was in the United States' territory and could dispose of that portion of him as seemed proper, just as Pudd'n-head Wilson expressed his intention to do with "half that dawg" if he could acquire an interest in the canine.

An interesting oration by Brother Chas. D. Belden, Grand Orator, deals with the question "Why has Freemasonry Survived?" The conclusion that Brother Belden arrives at is that Freemasonry has survived because of "The cause it represents, the lofty sentiments it breathes, and the sublime work it attempts."

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

M.W. William F. Nichols, Grand Master.

R.W. Geo. J. Roskruge, Grand Secretary.

BELGIUM.

The session of the 12th of January, 1899, was presided over by Brother Willequet, the business of the session being the election of a Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. Brother Gustave Royers was elected National Grand Master, and Brother Fernand Cocq Deputy Grand Master, for the ensuing three years. In brief addresses they thanked the brethren for the honors conferred, and assured them of their intention to uphold the honor of Belgian Masonry.

The session of the 30th of January, 1899, was presided over by Brother Fernand Cocq, Deputy Grand Master. The Representatives of the Supreme Council were introduced, passing under the "arch of steel," and preceded by five brethren bearing stars. They were heartily welcomed by the presiding officer as a visible sign of the indissoluble link between the Grand Orient and the Supreme Council of Belgium.

Brother Goblet d'Aviella, Lieut. Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, replied on behalf of himself and associates, thanking the brethren for their fraternal greeting, and conveying the regrets of the Sovereign Grand Commander that he was unable to be present.

The Representatives of foreign Grand Lodges were introduced and received with Grand Honors. The only Representative from the Dominion of Canada was he from the Grand Lodge of Canada. On behalf of the members of the Corps Brother Tempels, Representative of the Grand Lodges of Germany, made a felicitous reply.

The Grand Master-elect, Brother Gustave Royers, was then introduced, passing under the arch of steel and preceded by seven brethren bearing stars, while a triumphal march was played by the musicians. He was inducted into the chair by Deputy Grand Master Cocq in a very flattering speech. The speaker begins:

"In calling you, with a unanimous voice, to the functions in which I have the pleasure and the honor to install you to-day, the Grand Orient has given testimony to your high personal qualities, and your long and faithful Masonic services."

The eloquent and spirited reply of the Grand Master was greeted with loud applause.

Brother Magnette, Grand Orator, delivered a very interesting address. Speaking of the danger which, at the time, seemed to be threatening Belgian Masonry, the Orator asks:

"But what should be its (Masonry's) attitude? How should it act and comport itself to parry or weaken the blows of its adversary and in turn to subjugate it?"

"Should it, going out of its Temples, taking openly and boldly a position in political, economic and social conflicts, attempt, like a political party, to carry in a profane world the ideas, the reforms upon the justice and efficacy of which it has first of all pronounced? Is it good that, holding up its works, its occupations, its fears and its hopes; opening to the eyes of all the secrets of its strength and also of its weakness; leaving itself entirely open to attacks from the outside, Masonry should run the risk of coming out, badly bruised, from these encounters?"

"Is it not better that, soaring above these dissensions, remaining in its inviolate sanctuary, the sacred refuge of free thought, the Institution should preserve and develop that unmoved serenity, that disdain of attacks, that quiet constancy which are its strength, and which to-day more than ever excite the animosity of its adversaries?"

At the close of the Communication a banquet was held, at which the usual Masonic and patriotic toasts were given.

A brief review of Foreign Correspondence brings the volume to a close. The only allusion to American Masonry is contained in a notice of the Grand Lodge of Peru, in which, after reciting the action of that Grand Lodge in removing the Bible from its altars, the edict of the Grand Master of Nevada is given, and also the decree of the Grand Master of Peru, M. W. Arturo-Ego Aguirre. The following significant statement is made:—

"One must see in the conduct of the Grand Lodge of Peru evidence of the influence exercised by the United States over the South American States."

CALIFORNIA.

50th Annual Communication.

San Francisco.

10th October, 1899.

M.W. Brother Frank M. Angellotti, Grand Master, delivered an exceedingly able and well-prepared address. After commenting briefly on the fact of this being their semi-centennial anniversary, he passes on to report a satisfactory

condition of the Craft in the State. The net gain in membership during the year was 875. The only break in the circle of permanent members was caused by the death of R. W. Brother Theo. G. Cockrill, Past Grand Senior Warden. One Lodge received its charter and was duly constituted; four Lodges were organized under dispensation, and four Lodges were consolidated into two.

Three corner stones were laid; of the new building for the College of Physicians and Surgeons at San Francisco; of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Redlands; and of the new City Hall at Long Beach. The Grand Master was requested to lay the corner stone of the building erected at Wheatland by the Masons' and Oddfellows' Building Association, but,

"Having ascertained that the building had already been entirely completed, with a niche left for what was called the 'corner-stone,' I declined to grant the request."

Special dispensations were issued for many purposes. The Grand Master believes that dispensations to re-ballot for rejected candidates should be sparingly issued, and that the practice is a dangerous one. Notwithstanding this fact, he granted a large number of them. One dispensation was issued to permit of a ballot upon a candidate without reference to a committee. This also, the Grand Master believes, should be allowed only under very exceptional circumstances, and he refused five such applications. We agree with the Grand Master's views on both these points, and are sorry that he did not carry his arguments to their logical conclusion.

In two instances the Grand Master refused to sanction by-laws providing for a reduction of the annual dues, believing that the financial condition of the Lodges would not warrant it. It would be well if Grand Masters would investigate the probable effects of such reductions before giving their assent thereto.

The "Negro question" is briefly referred to, the Grand Master stating his belief that the recognition of these alleged Masons by Washington was an invasion of the jurisdiction of other Grand Lodges. He believed, however, that further reflection would convince the Brethren of Washington of their error, and so took no further action in the matter than to write to the Grand Master of that Jurisdiction and express the hope that they would see the error of their ways.

The Grand Master heard that two Lodges working in the French language were using written "expositions of the work," and, upon investigation, found that the reports were well founded. Upon having their attention drawn to the serious nature of the offence the Lodges concerned destroyed the "expositions" and gave assurances that they would not so offend in the future. He found also that the Lodges working in the French language did not conform to the recognized system of work, and suggests that they be brought into line.

The Grand Master records forty decisions, many of which bear on points of local law. We copy some which appear to be of general interest.

1. The widow of a Mason, who was in good standing at the time of his death, is entitled to all necessary assistance so long as she remains his widow.

3. When the Grand Lodge restores an expelled Brother to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, immediately upon the action of the Grand Lodge the Brother becomes again, without any action on his part, a Mason in good standing, entitled to all the rights and privileges of Masonry except those which are incident to membership in a particular lodge. He is, in effect, a non-affiliated Mason in good standing, and can acquire the rights and privileges of membership in a lodge only by affiliation therewith upon petition and election in the regular mode.

4. Where a lodge requests another lodge in this State to confer a degree or degrees for it, the conferring of the degree is an act of courtesy to the lodge making the request, and is considered the act of the lodge preferring the request. There is no fee contemplated by our law for such an act of courtesy on the part of one lodge towards another lodge. It would be only fair, however, that the lodge making the request should reimburse the lodge of which the request is made for any expenses caused by the conferring of the degree. Where degrees are so conferred, the Brother becomes a member of the lodge making the request, which lodge will return him as such member and will report the degrees as if conferred by it and pay the Grand Lodge fee therefor.

5. One who has been elected to receive the degrees in a lodge and receives the E.A. degree, and then refuses to proceed further, is not entitled to have returned to him any portion of the fee for the degrees paid by him at the time of application.

6. An E.A. Mason cannot withdraw from the jurisdiction of the lodge in which he has received his E.A. degree. That lodge retains jurisdiction over him as an E.A. Mason, unless, by its permission, he is elected to receive the remaining degrees in another lodge.

7. When a Brother, suspended for non-payment of dues for a longer period than two years, pays all arrearages and seeks restora-

tion, the Constitution requires the lodge to act upon his application for restoration at the stated meeting at which the same is brought before the lodge. The vote upon the question of restoration is not required to be by ballot. If the applicant does not receive a three-fourths vote of the members present, he is not debarred from making another application at a subsequent meeting.

10. It is settled law in this Jurisdiction that a dispensation should not be granted to a lodge, authorizing the lodge to appear in public in regalia for the purpose of attending divine service.

12. A lodge may conduct the funeral service prescribed by our ritual over the remains of a deceased Brother, although cremation of the remains is to follow.

16. The mere fact that charges have been directed by a lodge to be preferred against one of its members, does not deprive him of his right to withdraw from the lodge by giving notice of his intention so to do at a stated meeting, and paying his dues. Upon such withdrawal, he is entitled to a certificate of the fact of such withdrawal. But notwithstanding such withdrawal, the charges may still be preferred against him in the lodge which has jurisdiction over him, which, except in towns or cities having more than one lodge, is the lodge whose place of meeting is nearer to his residence than that of any other lodge in the State.

24. The following question was asked, viz.:—

“Can one who has been elected and installed Master of a lodge, who has not received the degree of Past Master, preside at meetings of his lodge, and confer degrees?”

I answered “Yes.” There is no provision of our law that in terms makes the receiving of such degree a condition precedent to installation. In conformity with custom the Master-elect should, wherever practicable, receive the degree in the manner provided by General Regulation No. 1, but he can legally be installed without having received it.

31. The daughter of a Master Mason is entitled to receive assistance from Masons, if she be in need, notwithstanding the fact that she is the widow of one who was not a Mason. The fact that she has been married makes her no less the daughter of a Master Mason, and as such she is entitled to our consideration.

34. If subsequent to election, but prior to initiation, it is discovered that an applicant for the degrees is ineligible by reason of physical disqualification, the Master should not proceed with the initiation. In such event, the application may be directed to be withdrawn for physical disability, and the applicant must be returned the fees paid by him.

36. In the absence of the Master and both Wardens of a lodge, the lodge cannot be opened.

40. A Master Mason's daughter, who is the wife of one not a Mason, and whose husband has deserted her, leaving her in need, is,

as the daughter of a Master Mason, entitled to relief at the hands of Masons.

Various other topics were dealt with in an able manner, among them being the "Widows' and Orphans' Home," "Washington Centennial Anniversary," "The Ritualistic Work," "The Restoration of Non-Affiliated Masons," and "The Physical Qualifications of Candidates." On the subject of non-affiliation, California has a very peculiar law. To show just how it works, we quote the words of the Grand Master. He refers to an amendment to their Constitution which was passed last year.

"In addition to the fact that by its terms, all those whose dimitts were more than six months old and who had neglected for six months to apply for membership in some lodge in the State were, *without notice*, deprived of the right to again place themselves in standing as Masons without the unanimous consent of the lodge to which they might apply, the policy and justice of which may well be doubted, a careful examination of the amendment will develop the fact that if such a Mason once applies for membership in a lodge and is rejected, and through oversight or for any reason neglects to apply again within six months from the date of rejection, he is forever placed beyond the pale of redemption. He cannot again apply for membership, no way is provided by which the Grand Lodge may act, and so far as I can see, he is in a worse position with regard to Masonry than he would have been if he had never been made a Mason. I cannot believe that this was the intention of the framers of the amendment or of this Grand Lodge, and yet it seems to me that no other construction can be placed upon the language used."

It appears to us that non-affiliates are receiving a great deal more attention than they deserve. We think that Grand Lodges would not have nearly so much trouble with this class if they did not go about looking for it. We should like to see *nearly all* non-affiliated Masons members of some Lodge, and would make the way back as easy as possible, but if a Brother really wishes to stay out, let him go in peace, and remain out until he feels that he would like to come in again.

Although the Grand Lodge of California is one of those that insist on "physical perfection," the Grand Master thinks that the line is drawn too closely, and that a more reasonable standard would be to require the candidate to be able to conform to what the several degrees require of him.

The Grand Secretary, V. W. Brother Geo. Johnson, and the Grand Treasurer, V. W. Brother Edward Coleman, submitted reports which give a clear insight into the business

of Grand Lodge. The cash on hand at the close of the fiscal year was \$1,440.47, with \$1,199.66 in the reserve fund, and investments representing \$56,842.00. As Treasurer of the Masonic Home, Brother Coleman reports a balance on hand of \$22,855.15, being an increase of some \$7,600 over last year.

The report of the Grand Lecturer, Brother William H. Edwards, is an interesting statement of the work done by him. He found the Lodges generally in a flourishing condition, anxious to learn the work, and ambitious to excel. Considering the fact that he is allowed only \$300.00 for travelling expenses, he covered an enormous territory.

The reports of the various Boards of Relief, as in former years, show that the Brethren of California do not weary in well-doing. The amount expended in charity by the six Boards was \$15,339.42, the expenses of management being \$1,922.50. We notice that six Brethren from British Columbia had been assisted—three in San Francisco, and three in Sacramento—the amount donated being \$85.25. Of this amount, \$22.50 were returned, and we hope the balance will be forwarded before the next report is printed. The figures given above refer only to relief granted to transient Brethren, the local Lodges attending to the wants of their own members.

The trustees of the Widows' and Orphans' Home report the opening of that Institution, which took place on the 1st of March, 1899. The total cost to 31st August, 1899, was \$136,950.85, all of which, together with the running expenses, has been paid. Of this sum, the Grand Lodge contributed \$37,000.00, individual Masons and other Masonic bodies supplying the balance. The admissions to the Home include sixteen men, five women, ten boys and six girls, and the monthly per capita cost was \$12.50.

A very excellent Oration was delivered by W. Brother Carroll Cook, who dates the Masonry of to-day back to that of A. D. 1717, "which was founded upon the principles of the Masonry of A. D. 52, introduced into Britain by the societies of Roman builders attached to the armies of Caesar." It is a very instructive paper, and we regret that we cannot quote from it more extensively.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by M. W. Brother William A. Davies, who, in his customary happy

manner, reviews the doings of some fifty-five Grand Lodges. Our Proceedings reached him at the eleventh hour, and are briefly noticed in his "Conclusion." He mentions the fact of having received a pleasant call from M. W. David Wilson. From our conversation with M. W. Brother Wilson, we are convinced that the pleasure was mutual.

California has 267 chartered Lodges, with 20,442 members; the net gain for the year being 900.

M. W. Charles L. Patton, Grand Master.

V. W. Geo. Johnson, Grand Secretary.

CANADA.

44th Annual Communication.

Ottawa.

19th July, 1899.

With this volume of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge we are presented with several handsome portraits, viz. of M. W. Brothers Col. W. M. Wilson, T. D. Harrington, W. B. Simpson, Col. A. A. Stevenson and Jas. Seymour.

Four Special Communications were held, at St. Thomas, Picton, Marmora and Maxville, the occasion in each case being the laying of a corner stone.

At the Annual Communication, M. W. E. T. Malone, Grand Master, presided. British Columbia's Representative was not present.

The Mayor of the city, with the City Council, attended and presented an Address of Welcome, and a similar address was presented on behalf of the Masons of Ottawa. Several distinguished visitors were present, including the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The Grand Master says he brings

"Tidings of peace and prosperity from all parts of the Jurisdiction. Our Lodges are in a flourishing condition; our craftsmen are engaged in works of love and charity; our financial returns will show an increase over that of any previous year, and our Grand Lodge is in cordial and fraternal relations with every legitimate Grand Lodge in the world."

He modestly speaks of his efforts to promote the good of the Craft, but a perusal of his Address will, we think, con-

vince anyone that the management of affairs could not have been in better hands.

He pays a loving tribute to the worth of several members of Grand Lodge, who died during the year, and the dead of other Jurisdictions are not forgotten.

The condition of the Craft is excellent. Many new members have been added during the year, and the Brethren have not forgotten the Divine lesson of charity, the private Lodges having expended over \$8,000.00 in this direction. Recognition is made of the services of the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Grand Master stating that he has

"no hesitation in affirming that the great success and prosperity which we now enjoy is due to these enthusiastic brethren."

The abuse of the ballot has occupied his attention during the year, it having come to his knowledge that in four or five Lodges there were Brethren who used the ballot in anything but a Masonic spirit. He recognizes the difficulty of dealing with such cases, but in a couple of instances where unguarded speeches resulted in the disclosure of the offending members, he caused charges to be preferred against them. He had some correspondence with the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington *re* Negro Masonry, in which he takes the position that two Grand Lodges cannot exist in the one State. He rejoices in the fact that by the recent action of that Grand Lodge all cause of friction has now been removed.

The Grand Master was exceedingly frugal in the matter of dispensations. Although deluged with applications, he granted only two. Neither did he issue any dispensations for new Lodges. He says: "I am not in favor of planting new Lodges in a territory already occupied," and we commend his utterances to all Grand Masters.

The official visits of the Grand Master included several Lodges, and District Lodges of Instruction. In addition, he attended several social functions, including the memorable meeting of Zetland Lodge, Toronto, when all the living Past Grand Masters of the Jurisdiction, except one, were present, and filled the chairs, conferring the first degree upon a candidate in a manner which left nothing to be desired. He also attended the Annual Communication of the Grand

Lodge of New York, where he and his associates met with a most hearty reception.

A number of rulings were given during the year, but only five of them are recorded, and they more for the purpose of getting an expression of opinion than anything else. They are as follows:

1. I decided that it was improper for a Worshipful Master to pass the ballot three times on the application of a candidate for initiation; also that it was improper for a Worshipful Master to allow members of the lodge to discuss the merits and qualifications of a candidate on whose petition the ballot had been taken. No discussion should be allowed, as thereby the secrecy of the ballot is violated. I censured a Worshipful Master for violation of duty under the above circumstances.

2. I decided that the practice, which for the first time has come to my notice, of initiating two or more candidates into Masonry at the same time, is decidedly improper, and directed the D.D.G.M. of the London District to put a stop to same.

3. There is affiliated with Doric Lodge, No. 382, a worthy Brother, who at one time held the rank of P.M., (in a subordinate lodge of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. The Brother was healed on his own application several years ago. This is a case which should be treated as in the cases of those who were subsequently healed, the rank of Past Master having been conferred upon those who held that rank in the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. He applied to Doric Lodge to return him as a P.M. to Grand Lodge, which request has not been complied with, on the ground that no provision was made for conferring on or retaining rank by those who were healed prior to the final adjustment of 1895. On the matter being submitted to me I came to the conclusion that as there is a doubt with regard to the Brother's case, Grand Lodge should consider the point and see that justice was done in the matter. I recommend that the Board of General Purposes bring in a report in favor of placing the Brother in question and all others similarly situated in enjoyment of this rank which in all fairness they are entitled to.

4. I decided that the word "freeborn" in our ceremonies does not exclude "illgitimate persons"; that the expression should be confined to "slaves," as the benefits of Freemasonry were not intended to be extended to those who were so shackled as to be unable to exercise freedom and independence.

5. I decided that the loss of a thumb and first finger of left hand does not debar a person from becoming a Mason.

These decisions were all approved by the Grand Lodge. We do not yet see why a brother should expect to retain any rank conferred upon him in a clandestine Lodge when he joins a regular Lodge. It is difficult to see how the

word "freeborn" in No. 4 could be made to mean "illegitimate," though the words "should be descended of honest parents" in the fourth of the Ancient Charges might bar the person referred to. No. 5 intimates that the Grand Master is not a physical perfectionist.

The report of the Grand Treasurer, R. W. Brother Hugh Murray, shows the expenditure on general account to have been \$8,963.32, while no less than \$9,830.00 were devoted to benevolent purposes. Besides this, some \$11,000.00 were invested, bringing the permanent fund up to \$85,000.00.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters are, as usual, full and complete. They show the greatest attention to details on the part of these officers, and fully warrant the encomiums of the Grand Master.

Two Lodges were granted warrants.

An amendment to the Constitution was adopted, authorizing the Grand Secretary to summon every Brother recommended for expulsion to attend the proper sub-committee of the Board of General Purposes. Another amendment adopted at this session provides that no public procession of Masons, except for a Masonic funeral, shall take place without the permission of the Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Master.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is a scholarly paper from the pen of that able Masonic writer, M. W. Brother Henry Robertson. In his opening remarks he comments briefly on the action (1898) of the Grand Lodge of Washington, which he evidently regrets. He dissents from the ruling of the Grand Master of Georgia, that an Englishman who had not been naturalized was not eligible for the degrees without permission from the Grand Lodge of England. It certainly was a remarkable ruling.

He thinks that a residence of one year is sufficient to determine a man's eligibility for membership, a law to that effect having been found to work well in his Jurisdiction.

British Columbia receives a brief notice, Brother Robertson thinking that M. W. Brother McLaren must have experienced a "new sensation" on the occasion of his visit to Kaslo Lodge.

The chartered Lodges number 361; according to the Grand Secretary's tabular statement the membership numbers 24,927, while according to the report of the sub-committee on the Condition of Masonry, it amounts to 25,084, the net gain for the year being 1,088.

M. W. E. T. Malone, Grand Master.

R. W. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary.

COLORADO.

39th Annual Communication.

Denver.

19th September, 1899.

Brother John Humphreys represented British Columbia at this Communication, which was opened in Ample Form by the Grand Master, M. W. Horace T. DeLong.

The Annual Address is a clear, business-like document of about twenty-six pages in length. After a few words, expressive of the pleasure he felt in meeting again the members of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master refers briefly and in a most fraternal manner to four prominent members of Grand Lodge who have been called from labor during the year. They are M. W. Brothers Geo. E. Wyman, Byron L. Carr and Oren H. Henry, Past Grand Masters, and R. W. Brother Francis L. Childs, Past Deputy Grand Master. We join with our Brethren of Colorado in dropping the sprig of acacia in their graves.

The Craft in this Jurisdiction are, notwithstanding isolated cases, in a healthy and prosperous condition, only one appeal having been brought before the Grand Master. The Craft are, the Grand Master says, "hungry for information."

Three Lodges were started under dispensation.

A dispute between two Colorado Lodges—or rather a misunderstanding—as to the expenses incurred by one in caring for a member of the other, was amicably settled, as was a somewhat similar trouble between a Colorado Lodge and one in Arkansas.

"Physical qualifications," or a lack of them, have contributed to the Grand Master's labors, more questions having been asked concerning this point than any other one. The

Grand Master dealt with this matter by referring the Lodges concerned to the by-laws of Grand Lodge and the decisions already given on the subject, and directing that they be read in open Lodge before the ballot was proceeded with.

Colorado is the home of probably the oldest Mason in the world, Brother Adna Adams Treat, a fact of which, although he is a member of another Jurisdiction, the Brethren of Colorado are justly proud. Brother Treat recently completed his 102nd year, and the Grand Master felt moved to send him a letter congratulating him upon the auspicious occasion. The Grand Lodge also expressed its sentiments by sending a deputation to wait upon the aged Brother and assure him of the good wishes of the Brethren. To both the deputation and letter Brother Treat responded in happy terms.

Two corner stones were laid during the year, and a new Temple was dedicated in the City of Telluride. A number of official visits were made, each occasion being productive of much good feeling.

The question of dues is a worry in Colorado as well as in other places. The Grand Master does not go into the matter at length, but gives it as his opinion that sooner or later the entrance fee will include dues, and that life membership will be the universal rule. Then there will be no "non-affiliates, no Brethren suspended for non-payment of dues," and when we come across a suspended Mason we will know that it is for some crime greater than poverty. This is truly "a consummation devoutly to be wished," but we are afraid it will only come with the millenium.

Several dispensations were granted, and a few refused. Among the latter were applications for permission to take part in a Fourth of July celebration, and to confer the three degrees in one night. Of the by-laws submitted to him for approval, the Grand Master declined to give his assent to one which gave a rejected petitioner for the degrees the right to apply again the following month. This was "turned down" by the Committee on Jurisprudence because the law did not specify any time after rejection during which a candidate might not apply. We observe, however, that the law was amended at this session so that a rejected applicant will now have to wait six months before he can renew his petition. Another by-law which did not meet with the Grand Master's

approval was one providing for the payment of an honorarium to the Treasurer of a Lodge. The Grand Master thinks that other officers of the Lodge do more work than the Treasurer without being paid for it, and that "working for hire ought to be kept at a minimum in our Lodges." We think matters of this kind should be left to the discretion of the Lodges. If a Lodge is willing and able to pay any or all its officers, we see no reason why it should not do so.

Of the eighteen decisions rendered, we note the following:

1. Laying a corner-stone is not proper Masonic work for the Sabbath Day. No lodge should be convened on Sunday except for the purpose of attending Divine service or for conducting a Masonic funeral.

2. When a lodge confers one or more degrees at the request and on behalf of another lodge, it is not entitled as a matter of right to demand any part of the fees.

3. A petitioner who has one leg not to exceed one and a half inches shorter than the other is eligible to be made a Mason.

4. Demits, to be legal, must be under the seal of the lodge issuing them.

5. All examinations must be held at regular communications, that being the intent of the words "open lodge" in By-Law No. 75.

6. Receiving a petition for initiation and reading it in open lodge is acting upon it within the meaning of By-Law No. 55. This is prohibited until the petitioner shall have resided within the jurisdiction of the lodge at least twelve months.

7. Smoking during lodge session is not contrary to any written law, but it violates the spirit and teachings of Masonry, as well as all the rules of etiquette and propriety, and no Master ought to permit it.

8. A suspended Brother, whether for non-payment of dues or any other cause, is not entitled to Masonic burial, as a matter of right. This matter is similar to the provision made by Decision No. 35, and the same course should be pursued as there recommended.

9. Every lodge must vote on its own candidates. Lodge B may, on the request of Lodge A, post a Brother on any degrees, examine him at a regular communication and spread the ballot on his proficiency; then Lodge A, after receiving the report of Lodge B, will, if the report be favorable, spread the ballot as usual on the Brother's petition for advancement. If he is elected, Lodge A may then request Lodge B to confer for it the next degree.

10. It is improper to discuss in open lodge the qualifications of a petitioner. Enough may be stated so that all the Brethren may know who the petitioner is, but all other information should be given to the

committee and come in with their report. If necessary let the petition be again referred and the committee given further time.

13. A lodge ought not to pay the nurse, doctor and drug bills of a Brother who is able to meet his own obligations. Masonry is not a benefit organization. We are banded together to help the needy, not for each to claim every possible benefit for himself.

14. Lodges do not appear in civic parades, nor on any public occasion such as the laying of a corner-stone or conducting a funeral, unless a Masonic Lodge has charge of the ceremonies.

15. An offer to waive jurisdiction, provided that usual fees are paid to the lodge offering to grant the waiver, is un-masonic. Waivers should always be granted in the interest of Masonry, and not for a mercenary consideration.

18. The inspection of the ballot box by the Senior and Junior Wardens prior to the casting of the ballot is very desirable, but not essential to the validity of the ballot.

Of No. 4, the Committee on Jurisprudence say:

"Dimits should be under the seal of the lodge issuing them, but the seal is not actually essential. The fact of dimission may be shown by dimit or other evidence which is satisfactory to the lodge receiving the same."

The Grand Lodge, however, sustained the ruling of the Grand Master. As the action of the Lodge is the "dimit", we fail to see how the seal of the Lodge could be attached to it. The presence of the seal on the certificate of dimit may be desirable, as the committee says, but could hardly affect the validity of the dimit.

Decision No. 7, the committee says, should be regarded in the light of advice to the Lodges, rather than as the subject of a decision by the Grand Master. We think if we were Grand Master, any Master of a Lodge who so far forgot himself as to permit smoking in the Lodge room during the Lodge session would get more than advice.

An admirable oration on "The Potency of Masonic Ideals in the Exaltation of Character," was delivered by Brother James R. Killian, Grand Orator. We extract the following beautiful thought:

"Of the many beautiful Masonic ideals, the guiding of which strengthens, ennobles, and exalts character. I shall speak only a word further of the greatest of all—the exercise of charity. Not alone the charity that provides for the widow, that cares for the orphan, that feeds the poor, but also that charity of which the great and martyred Paul spoke—that 'thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the

truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, endureth all things,' and which the writer had in mind when he wrote :—

The soul serene, impenetrably just,
Is first in charity. We love to muse
On such a model, knit in strictest bond
Of amity with spirits like disposed;
Aiming at truth for her own sake, this man
Passes beyond the golden line of Faith,
Passes beyond the precious line of Hope,
And sets his foot unmoved on Charity.

Precious beyond rubies are Masonic ideals, investing with celestial dignity the earthly avocation, lifting us into the heights of exalted manhood, leading us into the light of true fraternity and brotherhood, embodying as they do the highest, the purest, the noblest, the best; let us as individual Masons ever be guided by them, that we may walk before man and God in the conscious rectitude of our acts; avoiding vice and exalting virtue, bearing the burdens of life with manly courage, administering with loving hearts and willing hands to the wants of our fellow-men, until the dawn of a celestial morn shall break upon our souls and we are bidden by the Supreme Grand Master to dwell forever in a realm of Indefinite Perfection."

The committee on the Washington Memorial report the programme to be followed on the occasion of the Memorial Exercises. It certainly must have been an impressive and interesting ceremony.

It was resolved:

"That a suitable cut of our incoming Grand Master be published in our Proceedings."

in pursuance of which resolution the portrait of M. W. Brother Alphonse A. Burnand appears as a frontispiece to the volume. We are also favored with the portraits of Past Grand Masters H. M. Teller and Harper M. Orahood.

M. W. Brother Lawrence N. Greenleaf again presented one of his very excellent Reports on Foreign Correspondence. He reviews the Proceedings of fifty-six other Grand Lodges, many of them for two years, but unfortunately, British Columbia is not of the number. We trust that another year our Proceedings may reach Brother Greenleaf in time to be included in his admirable summary.

Chartered Lodges, 107; with 7,974 members, a gain of 360.

M. W. Alphonse A. Burnand, Grand Master.

R. W. Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

CONNECTICUT.

112th Annual Communication.

Hartford.

17th January, 1900.

Upon opening the volume of Proceedings we find an excellent portrait, engraved on steel, of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Brother Geo. G. McNall.

Three Emergent Communications of Grand Lodge were held, at Danbury, 27th June, 1899, to lay the corner stone of the County Court House; at Ridgefield, 12th, 1899, to attend the funeral of R. W. Brother E. T. Mahon, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia; and at Sharon, 7th April, 1899, to dedicate the new Lodge room of Hamilton Lodge.

At the Annual Communication British Columbia was represented by Brother Nelson G. Hinckley.

The Address of the Grand Master is a plain, business-like statement of his official acts. He rejoices that the year has been one of prosperity to the Craft; increased interest has been manifested in their Masonic Home; two Past Grand Masters, M. W. Brothers Dwight Phelps and James Henry Welsh, with several less distinguished Brethren, have been taken from them by death. We copy the following paragraphs from the Grand Master's Address as showing the universality of Masonry.

"On March 11th, 1899, our Grand Secretary received from Right Worshipful Brother Ross, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, notice of the death of Right Worshipful Edmund T. Mahon, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and advising him that the remains of Brother Mahon has been sent to Ridgefield, Connecticut, to be buried by the side of his wife, and asking that Masonic honors be paid him.

On March 12th, 1899, an Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge was convened at Ridgefield, where, with the efficient assistance of the officers and members of Jerusalem Lodge, No. 49, and of Most Worshipful Brother Luke A. Lockwood, Past Grand Master and Grand Representative of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England, near this Jurisdiction, were performed the last sad rites of Masonic burial over the remains of our distinguished Brother as we interred them in the beautiful cemetery at that place. The distinguished dead was not a citizen of our country, and was personally a stranger to our people; yet Free Masons of Connecticut most cheerfully performed the last sad rites with the same heartiness and solemnity as though he had been an official Brother of our own Grand

Lodge. The chord of fraternal sympathy among Free Masons the world wide was tenderly touched, and a great practical lesson of the universality of our ancient brotherhood most impressively given.

On August 12th, John H. Graham, Past Grand Master of Quebec, and Representative of our Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Quebec, died while on a visit to the City of Hartford. During his illness he was the recipient of much kindness by the brethren of that city. His remains were accompanied by a number of brethren to their last resting place in Canada."

Only one decision is reported, as follows:

"That Article 1, Section 21, Particular Regulations, means that a brother shall be an affiliated Mason in good standing for thirty years, and that it was not intended that any time he may have been a non-affiliate, should form any portion of the thirty years."

The decision, we suppose, refers to exemption from paying dues.

The Grand Master congratulates the Craft upon the restoration of harmony by the repeal of the injudicious resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge of Washington. He attended the "Washington Centennial," and was much impressed by the ceremonies.

The Masonic Home at Wallingford now contains fifty-one inmates, and additional room will soon be required.

His concluding remarks may well be thoughtfully considered by Masons everywhere.

"Masonry indeed sets a high standard for her votaries, and in this the closing year of the nineteenth century, let us one and all resolve, that the standard shall not be lowered in the selection of material for our lodges; let worth and not numbers be our watchword, and let us be solicitous in securing as the officers of our lodges, those best qualified to fill them; merit rather than favor or rotation should be the unailing rule, and thus for ourselves preserve, and hand down to those who follow, our institutions unimpaired, so that the world at large may continue to be wiser and better for having in its midst the Masonic Fraternity, which finds its inspiration in the recognition of Almighty God, His Fatherhood and our brotherhood."

A brief report is submitted by the Deputy Grand Master. His official acts consisted principally of visits and installations.

The Grand Secretary, M. W. Brother John H. Barlow, presented an interesting report. He has made some additions

to the Library; work on the Grand Lodge Register is progressing; delinquent Lodge secretaries have given him more trouble than usual, and he warns the Brethren against the ubiquitous "Masonic tramp," who has been somewhat prevalent in Connecticut of late.

It was ordered that Mount Olive Lodge be summoned to show cause why it should not be disciplined for failing to be represented at this Communication.

About the middle of the book we find the portraits of the two Past Grand Masters referred to above, together with those of R. W. Geo. Lee, Past Grand Treasurer, and W. Henry E. Patten, Past Grand Tyler, who also died during the year.

In an exceedingly able and well-prepared Report, M. W. Brother John H. Barlow presents a review of the actions of sixty-three other Grand Lodges. We have no fault to find with the report, but the binder got things a little mixed in the copy we received.

Brother Barlow—who is also Grand Secretary—is working on a "card register" for his Grand Lodge. This system of registry is coming rapidly into favor, and every Grand Lodge should have one.

British Columbia for 1899 receives the compliment of an extended notice, M. W. Brother Wilson's remarks on the subject of Negro Masonry being extensively quoted.

The report of the Masonic Charity Foundation, of Connecticut is, as usual, found at the back of the Proceedings. At the present time fifty-two persons are inmates of the Home, the maintenance of which for the year cost \$6507.37. More dormitory accommodation is required and also a hospital building, both of which will be provided in the near future.

Connecticut has 109 Chartered Lodges, with 17,446 members, the net gain for the year being 214.

M. W. John O. Rowland, Grand Master.

M. W. John H. Barlow, Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

93rd Annual Communication.

Wilmington.

3rd October, 1899.

A handsome portrait of Past Grand Master J. Harner Rile forms a frontispiece to the volume.

A Special Communication was held in the town of Houston on July 6th, 1899, to lay the corner stone of the new Methodist Church at that place.

At the Annual Communication, British Columbia was unrepresented.

The Annual Address states that peace and harmony prevail throughout the Jurisdiction, and that all the Lodges seem to be prosperous. The net gain in membership was 59, the total membership at the close of the year being 2,235.

The Grand Master received a communication from one of the Lodges asking if it could receive the petition of a clerk in a hotel. To this he replied:

"It is the inherent privilege of the Subordinate Lodge, expressed by the unanimous consent of all the Brethren present, to judge of whom it shall admit to its membership, and this right is not subject to dispensation. The Grand Lodge of Delaware has taken away from the Subordinate Lodge this inherent right and privilege, by adopting, October, 1895, resolution No. 38, section 3:—

'All Subordinate Lodges are prohibited from receiving and acting upon a petition for initiation or membership from any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and Masons are fraternally requested to refrain from engaging in the liquor traffic.' Unless this hotel clerk's duties require him to sell liquor, you have a right to receive and act upon his petition."

The question occurs to us, if this is an *inherent* right, not subject to dispensation, can it properly be made the subject of legislation?

The Grand Master states that:

"Masonic burial for a suicide is inimical to the spirit of the Institution, and in my opinion, there should be no qualifying law on this subject, in this jurisdiction, and I would recommend that this law, above referred to, be rescinded."

"I decided that the question of sanity must have previously determined by legal process, and the suicide have been under restraint either privately or in a public institution for the insane."

The committee on the Address, however, declined to take this view of the matter, and their opinion prevailed.

One dispensation was issued to confer degrees in less than the statutory time, the candidate being a sea-faring man. The Grand Master was compelled to refuse a request to lay a corner stone because the applicant was not a member of his Jurisdiction, and there was no official request from any near-by Lodge, and there was no Lodge resident in the town where the proposed church was to be built.

It seems to us that provided the church was to be built within his Jurisdiction, and the request came from the person in authority, it was quite within the province of the Grand Master to call the Grand Lodge together and lay the stone. We fail to see where the subordinate Lodge comes in.

The matter of Negro Masonry was brought to his notice by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and being convinced of its illegitimacy, the Grand Master saw no other course open to him but to suspend intercourse with that Grand Lodge. He submits all correspondence upon the subject for the action of his Grand Lodge, which approved of the course pursued by him.

From the report of the several committees we gather that the Grand Lodge Charity Fund now amounts to \$1,604.48, and the Reserve Fund to \$1,722.25.

The term of Representatives of the Grand Lodge of Delaware has hitherto been three years, but it was felt that this was rather short, so in future Representatives will hold their commissions during the pleasure of the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge was presented with a handsome ballot box, and the retiring Grand Master was the recipient of a beautiful jewel.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by R. W. Brother L. H. Jackson is a most interesting review of the doings of sixty other Grand Lodges. Under Tennessee, we notice that Brother Jackson believes that a man should be at least sufficiently perfect, physically, to conform to the requirements of the ritual. His, to our mind, convincing argument, is expressed in the following quotation:

"Among the rulings of the Grand Master we regret to note the following: 'Ruled that a man with left hand off at wrist was eligible

for the degrees. Mentally and morally he might be, but we could hardly think so physically. The left hand is required to 'support, etc.,' it must be 'raised to an angle, etc.,' both hands must be 'placed upon, etc.' Every attempt to meet these requirements would prove inability, and subject the person to mortification, which ought not to be permitted by those who know beforehand what the applicant does not."

His observations on the recognition of Mexican Masonry, too, are so pertinent that we venture to transcribe them.

"We do not see how that (the recognition of the *Gran Dieta*) can ever come to pass under its present status as a supreme body professing to govern Grand Lodges of the States of Mexico, even if there were no other objections to be removed. The recognition of the *Gran Dieta* would be sanctioning what we repudiate for ourselves, a supreme governing grand body over other grand bodies supposed to be sovereign and independent. If the Grand Lodges of the States of Mexico, would dissolve their organizations, and as lodges unite in forming a Grand Lodge of Mexico, that would obviate the anomaly of a National Grand Lodge over the State Grand Lodges. But as we understand it, many of the Grand bodies under the *Dieta* are withdrawing their allegiance, and that because of the reforms professed to be made by the *Dieta* in the restoration of the Great Light, the Holy Bible, and the repudiation of female Masons and female lodges, so-called. Are persons initiated in assemblies not having the Holy Bible and a warrant or charter from a Grand Lodge, Masons at all? Is not the initiation of females, and the presence of Masons thereat a punishable violation of Masonic fidelity? What a muddle the Mexicans are in, to say nothing of legitimacy of origin of their professed Masonry. Beautiful exponents of Masonry, and highly worthy of recognition. Recognition will not heal their infirmities and make them sound and 'simon pure'; regeneration is the only true and sure remedy. And when and where and how that is to be wrought out, we know not."

British Columbia for 1899 receives a short notice. We are glad that our personal work meets with Brother Jackson's approval.

M. W. William W. Black, Grand Master.

R. W. Benjamin F. Bartram, Grand Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia held Special Communications on the 30th of March, and 1st of July, 1899, the object of the former being the exemplification of the work, and of the latter the laying of the corner stone of a church.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held on the 10th of May, 1899, the Proceedings were of a routine nature, except that the Committee on Jurisprudence made a report expressing the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Washington had not fully considered the effects of the recognition of Negro Masons by them, and fraternally requesting them to reconsider their action.

On the 8th of November, 1899, the Annual Communication was held. In his Address, delivered on that occasion, the Grand Master states that the year just closed has brought large accessions to their ranks, and that the Craft generally has been prosperous. "Our usefulness," he says, "has not been lessened by dissensions or shortcomings nor has death invaded our ranks to any considerable extent." He mentions the names of those of their members who have been "called home" during the year, nor is he forgetful of the losses by death sustained by other Jurisdictions.

The Grand Master records only five decisions. Those of interest are the following:

Hiram Lodge having entered a brother who afterwards went to New York, asked the following question :—

(1) Is it proper for Hiram Lodge to appoint a committee to investigate Brother ——'s actions since he took his Entered Apprentice's degree?

(2) If objection be made to his receiving the remainder of the degrees, should that objection be sustained by the reasons for the same?

(3) After objection is made, would it be proper to appoint a committee to investigate the charges and report their findings to the lodge for action?

(4) Can we waive jurisdiction?

In answer to these questions, I decided as follows :—

(1) That Brother —— having been elected to receive the several degrees in Hiram Lodge, and having had the Entered Apprentice's degree conferred on him, the other degrees can be conferred the same as when he was first elected for them, provided there be no objection made.

(2) and (3) Answered affirmatively by reference to the Constitution.

(4) it is undoubtedly within the power of the lodge to grant his request, if it sees fit to do so, etc.

The W.M. of Washington Centennial Lodge states that at the close of the regular communication of his lodge, on the evening of June 7th, an Entered Apprentice (whom he had been expecting all evening, but

who was not in waiting when the Stewards retired to ascertain if there were any candidates) was found to be in the ante-room. The W.M. at once called a special communication and conferred the Fellow Craft's degree, being satisfied that no one had left between the time the Stewards had made their report and the moment the special was called.

In this case, I decided that the special communication called to confer the Fellow Craft's degree was irregular.

Several dispensations were granted; one corner stone was laid; a Masonic Fair was formally opened, and many visits to constituent Lodges were made. A site for the new Masonic Temple has been purchased. The Grand Master exercised his prerogative and made a Mason at sight of Admiral Schley.

The report of the Committee on Work deals with a matter which we do not remember to have come across before. It is as follows:

BRETHREN,—Your Committee on Work beg leave to report, that during the year, on September 22nd, the following appeal from the decision of the W. Grand Lecturer was received from the Worshipful Master* of La Fayette Lodge, No. 19 :—

LA FAYETTE LODGE, No. 19, F. A. A. M.,

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 22nd, 1890.

DR. CHARLES BECKER, *Chairman Committee on Work, Grand Lodge, District of Columbia:*

DEAR SIR AND W. BROTHER — The Grand Lecturer having decided in a meeting of La Fayette Lodge that it was not permissible to permit a Mason to pass in or out of the lodge-room after calling down from the Third Degree for the purpose of opening an E.A. or F.C. Lodge, before the said lodge is open, and La Fayette Lodge not agreeing with his decision, I have the honor to request a decision of the question by your Committee.

Fraternally submitted,

BENJAMIN S. GRAVES,

Worshipful Master.

After due consideration your Committee decided on the following answer, which was transmitted to the Worshipful Master of La Fayette Lodge, viz.:—

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 2nd, 1890.

BENJAMIN S. GRAVES, Esq., *Worshipful Master La Fayette Lodge, No. 19, F. A. A. M.:*

DEAR SIR AND W. BROTHER.—Your letter of the 22nd inst., appealing from the decision of W. Grand Lecturer in regard to allowing egress from or ingress to the lodge-room to members after dispensing with

the M.M. Lodge and previous to the opening of an E.A. or F.C. Lodge, was duly received and submitted to the consideration of the Committee on Work.

In reply I beg to state that the Committee finds:—

That—In conformity with the custom heretofore followed by the lodges of this Jurisdiction and the decision of a former Grand Master—you were not in error in allowing the door of the lodge room to be thrown open during such interval, between the closing of the M.M. Lodge and opening an E.A. or F.C. Lodge, and permitting Masons to pass in or out of the lodge-room, with the Tyler remaining at his post of duty.

Fraternaly yours,

CHARLES BECKER,

Chairman Committee on Work.

In conformity with the resolution of the Grand Lodge, adopted at the Semi-annual Communication, your Committee would respectfully recommend:

1st. That, in the interest of uniformity, the form of tiling used by the Grand Lodge in opening the same be followed by the Constituent Lodges of this Jurisdiction.

2nd. That, for like reason, in closing the lodge the officers and brethren at the proper time descend to the floor of the lodge-room.

3rd. That, when dispensing with a M.M. Lodge for the purpose of opening an E.A. or F.C. Lodge, the Worshipful Master, or Warden who may be called to the East for that purpose, shall at once proceed with the opening of such E.A. or F.C. Lodge, and that no one be allowed to enter or leave the lodge-room until such lodge shall have been open in due form.

Recommendation No. 1 was not agreed to, the Lodges being instructed to use the form of tiling ordered by the Grand Lodge. No. 2 was adopted, and No. 3 was amended by adding the words "Without permission of the Worshipful Master."

A resolution asking the Grand Master to communicate with the several Grand Lodges of the United States with reference to the establishment of a General Grand Lodge, was promptly rejected.

The Installation Communication was held on the 27th of December, 1899.

We note, *en passant*, that our Representative was not present at either the Semi-Annual, Annual or Installation Communications.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the 30th from the pen of the Grand Secretary, R.W. Brother Singleton, and is a comprehensive and interesting review of the doings of forty-eight other Grand Lodges. British Columbia for 1899 receives due notice.

We regret to observe that Brother Singleton was ill when the time came for him to write his "Conclusion," and trust that our Brother is again enjoying the blessings of health.

In the District are 25 Lodges with 5,820 members, a gain of 500.

M. W. William G. Henderson, Grand Master.

R. W. William R. Singleton, Grand Secretary.

ENGLAND.

The Annual Grand Festival was held on the 26th of April, 1899. On this occasion H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was again proclaimed Grand Master of Masons in England, and the other officers were duly invested. The Proceedings concluded with an "excellent entertainment" provided by the Grand Stewards, who received the thanks of the Grand Lodge for their liberality and attention to the comfort of the Brethren.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 7th of June, 1899.

The Board of Benevolence reported that during the quarter 81 petitioners had been relieved to the extent of £1,770. They also recommend special grants to the amount of £460, which were approved by Grand Lodge. In addition to these, £70 were voted for the purchase of coals for the Masonic Institution at Croydon—a total of £2,300.

Besides the announcement that the M. W. Grand Master had been pleased to appoint R. W. Brother Lord Kitchen District Grand Master of Egypt and the Soudan, the business of the Quarterly held on September 6th, 1899, was the consideration of the report of the Board of General Purposes relative to Cambrian Lodge, New South Wales. It

will present the matter in the clearest and briefest manner if we transcribe this part of the report.

"The Board beg to report that numerous communications have been received from the Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, requesting the full recognition of the lodge as a working lodge. It will be remembered that Grand Lodge, on the 7th of June, 1893, resolved that the Brethren who adhered to their allegiance to this Grand Lodge, instead of joining the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, were entitled to recognition as the Cambrian Lodge. Some delay took place in the transmission of a certified copy of the Minutes; and a difficulty arose by reason of the lodge having no Master, Past Master or Warden, when it resumed its meetings in 1894, after the above resolution of recognition. The plea of the Cambrian Brethren is, that they acted under a great and pressing emergency, and took immediate steps to remedy the defect, by electing one or more Past Masters as Joining Members, electing one of these as Master of the lodge, and having him installed in a Board of Installed Masters; after which they proceeded as a regular lodge. Propositions, elections, and initiations of candidates followed, together with election and installation of Worshipful Master and appointment of officers each year. No doubt the holding of a lodge meeting in June, 1894, without a Master, Past Master or Warden present, was contrary to the Constitutions and usages of the Order; but after reading the explanations of the Cambrian Brethren, and considering in fullest detail the events and correspondence from June, 1888, to the present time, the Board felt that it would best give effect to the resolution of Grand Lodge by recognizing the plea of great emergency, and acknowledging the validity of acts lawfully performed in the endeavor to overcome the difficulty. It was, therefore, resolved, at the meeting of the Board on Tuesday, 15th of August, last, as follows:

"That this Board, while regretting the irregularities which have occurred in the Cambrian Lodge, of Australia, No. 656, from June, 1884, and the cause thereof, acknowledges the great emergency under which those irregularities were committed, and resolves to recognize the several elections and initiations of members, elections and installations of Worshipful Masters, appointments of officers, and other acts necessarily supervening thereon, and confirms in their respective rank and past rank all such Masters and officers. All returns by said Lodge to be recognized in the usual course."

"The certificates of all Brethren in the lodge since 1888 have been forwarded, and a troublous matter has been swept away."

Some objection was made both to the report and the manner of dealing with it, but after explanations by the Grand Registrar, V. W. Brother John Strachan, the report was adopted.

At the Quarterly held on the 6th of December, 1899, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was again nominated for the office of Grand Master.

£1000 were voted for the relief of the wives and widows of soldiers in South Africa.

For the half year ended September 30th, 1899, the expenditures from the Fund of Benevolence were £6053.1.0, which, however, included the purchase of £2,000 2-3-4 *per cent.* consols.

At the Quarterly Communication held on the 7th of March, 1900, a message from the M. W. Grand Master was received, suggesting the propriety of forming a fund for the relief of distressed Brethren in South Africa, with their widows and orphans. This was most heartily agreed to by Grand Lodge, and a sum of 1,000 guineas was voted to the fund, which is known as the "South African Masonic Relief Fund."

The honorary rank of Past Junior Grand Warden was conferred on M. W. the Hon. C. E. Davies, Grand Master of Tasmania, and on M. W. His Excellency Idris Bey Ragheb, Grand Master of Egypt.

H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was again elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, and W. Brother Harry Manfield, Grand Treasurer.

The Board of Benevolence reported that during the quarter 63 petitioners had been relieved to the extent of £1,390. They further recommend grants amounting to £675 for the relief of 11 worthy applicants.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies having called the attention of the Board of General Purposes to the practice of some Brethren of their obedience who have been granted honorary rank in Foreign Grand Lodges wearing the clothing of such Foreign Grand Lodges while attending meetings of English Lodges. This contravenes one of the regulations of Grand Lodge and conflicts with the order of precedence as established therein. The Board called the attention of the Masters of all the Lodges to the matter, with a request to pay regard to it.

An important matter was brought before Grand Lodge in the following motion:

"That this Grand Lodge recognizes and acknowledges the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, recently formed by lodges under the District Grand Lodge."

It appears that in Western Australia there are thirty-four lodges under the English Constitution, and twenty-eight under the Scotch Constitution. For some years the Brethren of that Colony have been agitating the question of the formation of a separate Grand Lodge, but lately certain persons claiming to be Masons, but not belonging to any Lodge in the Colony, set up what they called the "Grand Lodge of Western Australia." To put the matter clearly and in as few words as possible, we give the remarks of V. W. Brother John Strachan, Q. C., Grand Registrar, on the subject:

"The brethren in that District of Western Australia for some years past have been agitating for the formation of a new Grand Lodge of their own, but some outsiders—I use the word advisedly, for we cannot trace them and we do not even know if they are Masons at all—but these outsiders have declared themselves a Grand Lodge supreme over the territory of Western Australia, and have called upon our lodges to submit themselves to their jurisdiction. And this so-called body sent a most impertinent demand to our Grand Master that he should not grant more warrants in their jurisdiction. It was not a question of a number of lodges who were working under any jurisdiction; they had not even a lodge, a subordinate lodge. They began to make Masons, I am informed—I can only tell you what I am informed—in that District. They made Masons clandestinely, and then formed lodges in order to support themselves as a pseudo Grand Lodge. This particular so-called Grand Lodge has applied for recognition, and I am going to move later on that we do not recognize them. The others are loyal to English Freemasonry. Our Brethren of the District felt that unless they took immediate steps those spurious people would get such a hold on the Colony and become so strong that it would be a cause of very, very great trouble indeed. Therefore, the District Grand Master granted dispensations for the several lodges under our jurisdiction to meet and discuss whether they would form a Grand Lodge of their own. That is the Constitutional way of doing it, as laid down in our Book of Constitutions. They met, some 33 or 34 lodges, and resolved to form a Grand Lodge. They passed various resolutions; they have formed themselves into a Grand Lodge, and they elected a Grand Master. They have now applied to this Grand Lodge and to our Grand Master for recognition. I have heard it said that they have no Scottish Lodges among them. There are Scottish Lodges out there. (A voice—"Twenty-eight." Another voice—"Only a few.") I do not care if there are a few, or one thousand; there are Scottish lodges there. We are on the most fraternal terms with our Scottish Brethren, and I hope we shall always be so. We are all Masons; but these Scottish Masons were applied to before the formation of the proposed Grand Lodge. They were applied to, to join with our 34 lodges in

forming the Grand Lodge. But they said they had not the provisions in their Scottish Book of Constitutions that we had, and therefore, on that ground solely, they did not come in with our members. There is no ill-feeling; on the contrary, there is the best feeling, and the probability is that very shortly after the Grand Lodge is acknowledged, a Scottish Grand Lodge will be formed, and the two Grand Lodges will work side by side, until they form a United Grand Lodge. What our advisers out there have done is this: We are earnestly assured by our District Grand Master—Sir Gerard Smith—that unless this new Grand Lodge is recognized it will have a very, very bad effect on English Masons out there. I am authorized formally to intimate that on recognition being accorded by this Grand Lodge, it is not the intention of the Most Worshipful Grand Master to grant for the future any warrant for a new lodge in Western Australia, provided that the rights of any lodge desiring to retain its connection with the Grand Lodge of England shall be respected."

The attention of some of our neighbors to the South is respectfully called to the statement that probably very shortly after the acknowledgment of this Grand Lodge, a Scottish Grand Lodge will be formed, *and the two Grand Lodges will work side by side.*

The Grand Lodge of Western Australia as formed by the Lodges under the English District Grand Lodge was duly recognized, and a request for recognition from the irregular body above referred to was refused.

M. W. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master.

R. W. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary.

FLORIDA.

71st Annual Communication.

Jacksonville.

16th January, 1900.

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held in the City of Pensacola on the 26th of June, 1899, for the purpose of dedicating the Hall of Escambia Lodge.

The Address of the Grand Master, M. W. Silas B. Wright, (whose portrait faces the title page of the Proceedings) is a very sensible, business-like paper. In it the Grand Master makes a feeling reference to the departed Brethren of his own and of other Jurisdictions; recommends the resumption of friendly relations with Washington; advises that recognition of the *Gran Dieta* be referred to the incom-

ing Grand Master; expresses the opinion that a General Grand Lodge as proposed by the Grand Master of Wyoming is impracticable; and mentions the dispensations issued, of which there were three for the formation of new Lodges and several special dispensations for various purposes. The Grand Master does not approve of dispensations for conferring degrees out of time, and suggests that when such dispensations are asked for, for the convenience of the candidate, a fee of \$10.00 should accompany the application. This recommendation afterwards met with the approval of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master's rulings are as follows:

A Brother is convicted after trial and sentenced to suspension for twelve months. Query—At the end of such sentence will he have to be balloted for to reinstate him as a member in good standing?

Answer—No; at the expiration of the term he becomes a member in good standing without action of the lodge.

Query—Should an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft be examined for advancement in open lodge while opened on the Master's degree, or should it be in the highest degree to which the candidate has attained?

Answer—All candidates should be examined in open lodge, opened in the highest degree to which he has been advanced. No person should be admitted to a lodge opened in the Master's degree except those who have received that degree.

Can a candidate who has received a degree at a special communication appear at a stated communication a week or two later, and after standing a satisfactory examination the ballot be opened for his advancement?

Answer—Yes, but the degree cannot be conferred without a dispensation, until one full month has elapsed.

In June, 1890, a petition with the usual fee was received from an officer in the volunteer army resident here. A dispensation was obtained and at a special communication the ballot was spread and he was elected. Before the degree could be conferred he was ordered away and is now on his way to Manila. He writes asking that the fee be returned to him. Please say whether we should refund or not.

Answer—The petition having been favorably acted upon, the fee becomes the property of the lodge and he becomes your candidate. You can only return the fee as a donation or gift, but such action would in no way change his relation to you as your candidate, or your jurisdiction over him.

A brother asks if he can, while Secretary of a lodge, act as W.M. of a lodge U.D.

Answer—While no regulation can be found directly prohibiting it, the two positions would, in my opinion, be incompatible, and he should not act in both capacities.

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved of them, except Nos. 3 and 5. Of the former they say that the ballot for advancement cannot be taken until a month after the degree has been conferred. Of the latter, that there is no regulation which would prevent the Secretary of a Lodge acting as W. M. of a Lodge under dispensation.

The Grand Master visited twenty-five of his Lodges, deriving much pleasure therefrom, as also from his visit to the Grand Lodge of Virginia on the occasion of the Washington Memorial Observances.

The Grand Lodge directed the Grand Secretary to codify the various Regulations and Rulings adopted by Grand Lodge since the publication of their Digest. The work appears as an appendix to the Proceedings.

The Grand Orator, W. Brother Reginald Weller, delivered an interesting Address, referring to Brother George Washington, his many virtues and his love for and support of the Masonic Institution.

The rest of the business transacted was of local interest only.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. Silas B. Wright, Grand Master.

R. W. Wilber P. Webster, Grand Secretary.

GEORGIA.

113th Annual Communication.

Macon.

31st October, 1899.

Our Representative, W. Brother Julius L. Browne, was in attendance.

The Grand Master, without any preliminaries, recapitulates his work during the year. He paid a number of official visits, endeavoring in each case to propagate the teachings of Masonry; issued seventy-eight dispensations for various purposes, including several for the railroading of

candidates through the degrees, and made twenty-five decisions, some of which we copy.

1. An objection to an applicant, after he has been elected, as effectually stops his initiation, as though he had been black-balled, and the objector cannot be required to give his reasons for such objection.

2. If a candidate for any degree in Masonry has been stopped by objection, and the objection afterwards withdrawn, can the candidate take the degree to which he was elected, without further ballot? Held — That another ballot is unnecessary. The objection being withdrawn, and the lodge satisfied with the character of the applicant, there is no further barrier to his progress.

3. After a second ballot on a petition for the degrees has been had, and the Master declares the result, a motion to reconsider is entirely out of order, and cannot be entertained.

4. No member of a lodge, not even the Worshipful Master, can enquire the reason of a member for casting a black ball. It is un-Masonic to ask, and equally as un-Masonic for any member to give the manner in which he voted, or the reason therefore. The secrecy of the ballot is sacred, and its sanctity must be maintained, under all circumstances.

8. A lodge can reconsider its action on any question at the same communication, after the intervention of other business, or at the next regular communication thereafter. But under no circumstances can the ballot on a petition for degrees, after the result has been declared, be reconsidered.

11. A lodge cannot be called from labor to refreshment, to be called on again at a given date, and at such communication, act on a petition for any degree in Masonry. If such action were permissible, the lodge might never close, but be in constant readiness to receive and ballot on all petitions.

20. Our Masonic law says that in a Masonic trial, "near relatives of the accused" cannot vote. Please define the term "near relatives." Having no law by which to be governed, and finding no Masonic authority covering this case, we know of no better way by which it can be settled, than the application of the common law of our land. It is therefore held, that a brother related to the accused, to the Fourth Degree, either by consanguinity or affinity, is barred from sitting in his case.

All the decisions were approved by the Grand Lodge with some trifling amendments, the most important of which was:

"With reference to the last clause of that decision (No. 1) we hold, that, after election, and before conferring the degree, the objector should be required to make known his objection in writing at the next communication, and such objection shall be considered and decided upon by the lodge; and should said objection be sustained, the can-

didate shall not be permitted to take the degree, but if the objection is not sustained, then the candidate shall be permitted to proceed."

No. 20 seems to introduce a new feature in Masonic jurisprudence. We are not surprised that the Grand Master could not find "Masonic authority covering this case," and are a little astonished that he found a Committee on Jurisprudence so complaisant as to pass it without comment.

Foreign relations are extremely harmonious, the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington having removed the misunderstanding which existed in that quarter.

The Grand Master compliments the District Deputy Grand Masters upon the manner in which they have performed their duties. He thinks, however, (and we agree with him) that the expenses of these officers should be borne by the Grand Lodge rather than by the Lodges. He sees that under the present system the weaker Lodges, and those which presumably most need the services of an instructor, are those which are least likely to obtain them. The Grand Lodge, however, thought differently, so that the system already in vogue is continued.

The finances of Grand Lodge are in excellent condition—they are again free from debt.

Four prominent and well-beloved Brethren fell asleep during the year, R. W. John G. Dietz, Past Junior Grand Warden; R. W. John H. Jones, District Deputy Grand Master; W. T. W. Freeman, Grand Tyler; and Orlando McClendon; all of whom are fraternally remembered.

The Grand Master concludes his Address with some beautiful thoughts on "The Influence of Masonry on the Destiny of Man and the History of the World."

The report of the Committee on General Welfare states that they

"View with apprehension the growing evil that arises from the length of time dimits are held, while the holder in many instances, enjoys some privileges, specially the important one of using the same as a passport to affiliation,"

and they recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"That dimits of withdrawing members, which are held for the term of two years, following their issuance, shall become void, and shall not

support an application for affiliation, nor shall said withdrawing member thereafter, have any rights now enjoyed by dimitted Masons; but said dimits may be renewed at the end of two years, upon payment of intervening dues."

The matter was laid over until the next Annual Communication, when we hope it will be thrown out. There is far too great a tendency to deal harshly with the dimitted Mason. If a Brother for any reason wishes to sever his connection with a Lodge, in Heaven's name let him go as freely as he came. Masons by compulsion cannot make desirable members.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances submit a long list of names of Brethren whom they recommend for expulsion. The list includes the names of 74 Brethren whose only offence is non-payment of dues, and 45 guilty of other offences ranging from drunkenness to adultery, seduction and murder. The same penalty is impartially meted out to the whole 119.

The number of Lodges in the State is 430, of which 416 were represented at the Communication. The number of members is 19,332, being 771 more than last year.

Brother W. S. Ramsay presents his thirteenth Report on Foreign Correspondence, of which it is sufficient to say that it is equal to any of its predecessors. He does not quite approve of the severity of their law against Brethren in arrears for dues, but says that in practice it is not quite so severe as it looks, in that it is only Brethren who can but won't pay who are made to suffer the penalty. Even then we beg to suggest the impropriety of classing these delinquents with persons guilty of all sorts of heinous crimes. It would seem that the penalty of suspension would more nearly "fit the crime."

British Columbia receives courteous notice for both 1898 and 1899. Brother Ramsay thinks it was a rather ridiculous position for the Grand Master to find himself in when he had to appear before a Board of Trial. M.W. Brother Wilson's Address is specially complimented, and our individual work is referred to in a manner which we highly appreciate.

M. W. W. A. Davis, Grand Master.

R. W. W. A. Wolihin, Grand Secretary.

IDAHO.

32nd Annual Communication.

Boise.

12th September, 1899.

With this volume we are presented with a well-executed group picture of the members of the Grand Lodge, which forms the frontispiece, while half-tone portraits of M. W. Lafayette Carter, Past Grand Master, and of M. W. John C. Muerman, Present Grand Master, greet us further on in the book.

The Grand Master, M. W. Geo. H. Storer, presided. Brother Alfred Moyes, who represents British Columbia, was not present.

The Grand Master, after welcoming the Brethren to the Annual meeting, and dropping a sprig of acacia on the graves of those who have died during the year, says that if it were not for the need of complying with the Constitution he would have no occasion to address them. However, he manages to make out an Address of some thirteen pages, and a very interesting one at that.

He has found a lack of interest in some of the Lodges, and a failure to hold even the regular meetings. For this he considers that blame principally attaches to the officers, and outlines the way to make the meetings more interesting. He warns the Brethren against admitting material which seeks to gain entrance because the Institution happens to be enjoying a measure of popularity. He has found some backwardness among the Lodges in adopting the authorized work, and attributes it to a defect in the system of imparting it. As we learn further on that the system has only been in use for some six months, it is possible that a longer trial will give better results.

On account of illness the Grand Master was not able to visit as many Lodges as he intended to, but made a very fair showing nevertheless. He declined, very properly, to approve a by-law submitted to him making the Master of a Lodge ineligible to succeed himself.

The decisions reported do not call for any special mention, except one, which decided that a Lodge could not hold its meetings in an Oddfellows' Hall unless it had complete control of the Hall. This decision was not sustained by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master thinks that their law against non-affiliates is too severe, which possibly accounts for its lack of enforcement. At present a non-affiliate in Idaho is liable to expulsion should he not, within a limited time, make application to some Lodge for membership. He says that he has not known of a single instance

"where the Master of a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction has ever ordered the Junior Warden of his lodge to prefer charges against an unaffiliated Brother for not presenting his petition for membership as required by said resolution."

He does not think it is a good law, and would like to see it repealed, but if it is to be kept on the books, he thinks it should be enforced.

The Grand Lodge decided that it should be enforced, and instructed the Grand Master to order every Master by "diligent search and inquiry" to find out non-affiliated Masons and prosecute them, under pain of having the Lodge charter withdrawn in case of default. Non-affiliated Masons in Idaho will be apt to keep pretty dark after this.

The trustees of the Orphan Fund report that during the year they had made appropriations from the fund under their control to the amount of \$894.00.

M. W. Brother Fred. G. Mock delivered a brief, but very interesting oration on "Masonry and Our Duties."

The same M. W. Brother prepared the Report on Foreign Correspondence, which is an able *resume* of the Proceedings of fifty-four Grand Lodges, some of them for two years. It was prepared under great difficulties, Brother Mock having had serious trouble with his eyes. We rejoice that he has quite recovered. He regrets, and so do we, that the Proceedings of British Columbia did not reach him in time for review.

We gather from reading his report that Brother Mock is not in favor of their "compulsory affiliation" law. He does not approve of cipher rituals, nor of dispensations to hasten candidates through the degrees.

We would ask Brother Mock why, if many American Grand Lodges suspended fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, as he says under Michigan, because they printed the work, they did not also include Eng-

land, Canada and others who have done and are still doing the same thing?

M. W. John C. Muerman, Grand Master.

R. W. Theo. W. Randall, Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

60th Annual Communication.

Chicago.

3rd October, 1899.

As usual this is one of the most interesting volumes of the year. Besides its literary and typographical excellence, it is worthy of mention for the portraits it contains. We are favored with likenesses of M. W. Brothers Edward Cook, Grand Master 1898-1899, (frontispiece), James A. Hawley, Grand Master 1873-1874; and DeWitt C. Cregier, Grand Master 1870-1871. There is also a representation of the jewel presented to M. W. Cregier upon his retirement from the office of Grand Master in 1872, and which was by him bequeathed to the Grand Lodge.

Our Representative, Brother Loyal L. Munn, is so constant in his attendance on Grand Lodge that it is almost superfluous to mention the fact that he was present on this occasion. The Grand Master read an exceedingly able and interesting Address. He refers briefly to the loss sustained by the Grand Lodge in the deaths of several prominent members of the Craft, M. W. Brothers Cregier and Hawley, and R. W. Brothers Asa W. Blakesley, Henry C. Cleaveland and Philo L. Holland, and Brother Henry G. Perry. Sister Jurisdictions are not forgotten, but the sympathy of the Grand Master is extended to those which have been called upon to mourn during the year.

The Grand Master constituted two new Lodges, both in the City of Chicago. Feeling that the multiplication of weak Lodges was not to the advantage of the Craft, the Grand Master was particularly careful in the matter of issuing dispensations. One Lodge was continued under dispensation, and a new Lodge would have been started but for the opposition of one of the Lodges to which an application for a recommendation was made, the law in Illinois requiring the recommendation of the three nearest Lodges.

One Hall was dedicated and several corner stones were laid—some by the Grand Master himself, and others by deputy.

Five schools of instruction were held, the results being most satisfactory. The Grand Master was pleased to note the general improvement in the work of the Lodges, but again feels called upon to express his disapproval of any attempt to enlarge upon or ornament the standard work, by means of robes and other paraphernalia. A few Lodges having disregarded his fraternal advice in this matter, he felt obliged to issue an edict prohibiting "the introduction of military drills, stage settings, theatrical scenes, inappropriate music, stereopticon views . . . and the use of robes, uniforms and costumes."

He also expressly prohibited the "sale, distribution, use or possession," of any written or printed form of the esoteric work, which is, as the Grand Master very correctly says "a violation of the obligation," as well as a disregard of an edict of Grand Master Scott, which is still in force.

A few cases arose which called for the exercise of the disciplinary power vested in the Grand Master, but considering the fact that the Brethren in the State number 55,000 distributed among 722 Lodges, the wonder is that they were so few.

Four decisions are reported. No. 1 states that a Brother cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues unless the delinquency is for time already passed. No. 2 decides that life membership cannot be granted unless the conditions required had been completed previous to October 5th, 1898. Nos. 3 and 4 relate to waiver of jurisdiction over an E. A. or F. C., a practice which fortunately is not known in this Jurisdiction. All met with the approval of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master recommends a uniform form of petition; recounts some of the pleasant visits he made; and comments upon the "rotation in office" of Lodge officers. Of the last, he thinks that while the custom which used to prevail, of retaining a Worshipful Master in office for an indefinite period was apt to produce lethargy and indifference in the Lodge, the other extreme, the plan of moving the officers "up one place" every year, is equally to be condemned. As he says:

"The practical result is that every Master becomes a Past Master just when he begins to get a true conception of the duties of his station."

The Report of the Grand Secretary is entirely a statement of receipts and expenditures. It is pleasant to note that Illinois recognizes the abilities of its officers. Thus, the Grand Secretary receives a salary of \$2,500; the Grand Master, \$1,500; the Grand Treasurer, \$400; and the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, \$300.

At the morning session of the second day of the Communication, the reception of the new Grand Representatives took place. Each in turn presented his credentials, was welcomed by the Grand Master and presented to the Grand Lodge in a neat little speech, and acknowledged the honor done him—the speeches in each instance being models of brevity and wit.

After this ceremony had been concluded, R. W. Brother Frank Crane delivered the annual oration, the subject of his remarks being, "The Way of Looking at Things." In an easy, anecdotal style he gives the Brethren a great deal of good advice, the "burden of his song" being that "Love is the Schamir with which we are to build up and perfect society."

The Grand Lodge adopted a uniform form of petition, and (conditionally) granted one Charter. From the Report of the Committee on Chartered Lodges we learn that the net gain in membership during the year was 962, the total membership now being 55,120. The amount contributed for charity by the Lodges during the year amounts to the magnificent sum of \$29,562.90.

A large amount of business of local interest occupied the remaining hours of the session. Several amendments to the Constitution were proposed and laid over until next year. The Committee on Appeals and Grievances dealt with several cases, the details being very properly omitted from their report.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by that able Masonic writer, M. W. Brother Robbins, is his second in the "topical" form. While it is an exceedingly interesting paper the form in which it is written does not favor a critical review. He discusses various matters of interest under the

headings "Neerology," "As Others See Us," "Negro Masonry," "Mexican Masonry," "Form of Report," "Army Lodges," and "Masonic Homes."

Negro Masonry again comes in for a considerable portion of Brother Robbins' space. He quotes extensively from the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges to show their action in the matter, and while his argument is too long to quote, we believe it fully sustains the position he took last year.

Of that "Kaleidoscopic hybrid," as he calls Mexican Masonry, Brother Robbins expresses the hope that it may soon be relegated to merited oblivion. He believes that the *Gran Dieta* is "on its last legs," so to speak, but is also of the opinion that the "passing away" of the *Gran Dieta* will not remove the difficulties which the situation presents to American Masonry. The only real remedy, Brother Robbins thinks, is the adoption of the suggestion made last year by Brothers Ruckle, of Indiana, and Eggleston, of Virginia—to regard Mexico as "open territory."

M. W. Charles F. Hitchcock, Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. C. Dill, Grand Secretary.

INDIANA.

78th Annual Communication.

Indianapolis.

23rd May, 1899.

So far as we have gone, the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Indiana impress us as being about the best of the year, not only in regard to the handsome appearance of the volume and its literary excellence, but in respect to the calm judgment and good sense of those who met to legislate for the Craft in that State. Additional interest is given to the volume by the presence of the portraits of M. W. Brother William Geake, Grand Master for the current year, and of M. W. Alexander A. Meek, Grand Master from 1818 to 1820.

M. W. Simeon S. Johnson, Grand Master, delivered an Address covering thirty-five pages of the Proceedings. Although somewhat lengthy, it is a practical, business-like

document, and gives a full account of his official acts for the year.

He issued dispensations to several new Lodges; wound up the affairs of one Lodge, and withdrew the charter of one; constituted four Lodges; dedicated three Halls; and laid one corner stone, all by proxy. One charter was restored, and four Lodges were consolidated into two. Several special dispensations were granted, but none that we can see to confer degrees out of time.

The Grand Master was called upon to decide "questions innumerable," most of which, he says, might have been answered by a reference to the law as written. Among the decisions recorded, we find the following:

1. A candidate with left arm off above the wrist is not eligible to receive the degrees.

2. A candidate with either leg so stiff that he cannot bend the same, and cannot comply with the requirements of Masonry, is not eligible for initiation.

5. Lodge can bury dimitted Mason if majority of members present so decide.

7. A lodge cannot suspend a member without charges being preferred, trial had, etc., except the accused can waive trial and plead guilty.

9. Restoring an E.A. or F.C., who has been suspended, restores him to original standing, and lodge can confer remaining degrees.

11. A candidate, twenty-one years of age, January 26, 1890, can he be elected to receive degrees at stated meeting, January 25th, 1899? Yes; and receive degrees when twenty-one years old.

12. Is it lawful to confer degrees upon a black man having the necessary qualifications?

Yes.

13. Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, being absent, Junior Warden organizes lodge, calls a Past Master to preside; who should sign minutes of that meeting?

Junior Warden.

15. An avowed atheist, member of a lodge, asks for permission to withdraw; Worshipful Master rules he is entitled to a dimit if section 57 of the General Regulations has been complied with.

Ruling of Worshipful Master is correct.

17. A candidate is elected to receive degrees, whereupon a member, "prompted purely by a spirit of revenge or retaliation," objects to his initiation. Must the Worshipful Master refuse to initiate?

Yes. See section 61, General Regulations.

19. Asked by a Worshipful Master for permission to refer "to my esoteric ritual while doing degree work."

Refused. Such Ritual unknown to me.

23. A Brother complains that he was suspended for non-payment of dues; that he was too poor to pay, etc. What shall he do?

He is subject to the By-Laws of his lodge, and if he has been wrongfully treated by the lodge or the Worshipful Master, appeal to the Grand Lodge.

24. "Would it be a violation of Masonic law to receive the fee of a minister of the Gospel, and, after initiation, for the lodge to vote him a donation of the full amount of the fee?"

If not a technical violation of section 78 of Grand Lodge General Regulations, it is a violation of the meaning and intent of such regulations and no such action can be had.

It is beyond my comprehension why lodges should continue to attempt to give degrees to ministers without charge. Masonry knows no privileged class, and no man ought to ask for the degrees unless he can pay the fee.

25. Election night of lodge coming on December 24th, when the members desire to attend Christmas exercises, voted to abolish the meeting of December 24th, so as to hold election of December 10th.

This novel way of amending By-Laws, remarkable for its simplicity and convenience, had never occurred to me, nevertheless, I ruled action of the lodge was illegal, and that the By-Laws could not be amended in so summary a manner.

26. Fellow Craft degree cannot be conferred upon a candidate who says he cannot learn the work, is entirely deficient and unable to answer a single question.

28. A brother is elected Worshipful Master, having been elected and installed as Warden, having never done "any work" as Warden, except to fill his station, is he eligible to be installed as Worshipful Master?

Yes; if he has received Past Master's degree, the word "served" as Warden should be construed filled or occupied the station of Warden.

31. A Brother who has been tried appeals to Grand Lodge, and appeal sustained, cause remanded for new trial, is "under charges" and cannot obtain a dimit.

33. A candidate is rejected at stated meeting, asked to permit ballot at next stated meeting, claiming a *mistake* had been made.

Permission refused, can only proceed in regular way.

35. Can a lodge grant a Brother a dimit who has been guilty of highly un-Masonic conduct with a Mason's sister, also arrested for bastardy?

Yes; if section 57 of the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge has been complied with. Charges ought to be preferred before he asks for dimit.

All were, in the main, approved of by the Grand Lodge, the Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence, however, dissenting from No. 11.

The Grand Master was also asked the following questions, and answered them as below:

1st. Has the Grand Lodge the right to rent the Grand Lodge hall for Masonic purposes, and for other purposes as well?

2nd. If the Grand Lodge has the right to rent its hall for both purposes, why is it that any lodge in the State may not do the same?

3rd. If it is wrong for the Grand Lodge to rent the hall for lodge work, would it not be wrong for the Grand Lodge to meet in said Hall?

Answered as follows:—

1st. The Grand Lodge has the right to do many things and the right to rent its Hall for any purpose.

2nd. Subordinate Lodges are the creatures of the Grand Lodge and derive their rights as organizations from the Grand Lodge under the General Regulations laid down, one of which is as follows: "Section 37. Lodges may hold their meetings in the same room with other Masonic organizations but in no case can this be extended to any other order or society whatever."

3rd. For reason given above, I think not.

One Lodge having received on a dimit a member of Olentangy Lodge, (one of the clandestine Lodges of Ohio), and having found out his origin, wrote to ask what they should do in the matter. The Grand Master answered that their action in receiving him was null and void, and that they should hold no further communication with him. The Grand Master also decided that a Lodge cannot "call off" from day to day. He dealt with a number of cases requiring discipline; refused to sanction "Army Lodges;" severely condemned the use of "cipher work," and recommends an appropriation for the purpose of erecting a monument in memory of M. W. Brother Alexander A. Meek, their second Grand Master.

He calls attention to the great value of the Reports on Foreign Correspondence, which, he thinks, and no doubt rightly, are not sufficiently read, though we doubt if the case is so bad as he makes out. Surely more than twenty-five, or even fifty of the 30,000 Masons in Indiana read the excellent reports on Foreign Correspondence prepared for them year after year by M. W. Brother Ruckle.

Relations were resumed with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and suspended with Washington. The Grand Master also recommends participation in the Washington Memorial Exercises.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother William H. Smythe, presented his twenty-first annual report, and incidentally mentions the fact that during his twenty-one years of service he has received and paid over to the Grand Treasurer the very tidy sum of \$551,961.90. In order to complete some improvements to the Temple, the Grand Lodge was obliged to realize some of its investments. The security must have been poor, for the Grand Secretary expresses satisfaction that they got their money out of them, and sincerely hopes that he "may never again be required to draw a warrant upon the Grand Treasurer for the purpose of loaning any part of the funds," of the Grand Lodge. Brother Smythe differs from most people, it being generally considered that a well-placed loan is a very safe and profitable investment. How would Brother Smythe dispose of, say, their Charity Fund? By the way, this reminds us that we find no mention of any Charity Fund; neither is there in the list of expenditures, nor in the estimates of the Finance Committee any mention of any money to be devoted to that purpose. Possibly, and we hope it is the case, we do the Grand Lodge of Indiana an injustice, and this work is carried on without letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing. Or, again, and we again hope it is the case, there may be no deserving poor in Indiana.

In reading over the reports of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations we notice that they object to the by-laws of one Lodge because they provide for a festival meeting. The Committee say that there are but two kinds of meetings known to Masons, viz., stated and called. If the Committee were to consult the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges of England, of Massachusetts, and we think of Pennsylvania, not to mention some of the British Colonies, we think they would find that festival meetings are not entirely unknown.

It is the law in Indiana, as we gather from the reports of this committee, that in case of a tie the Master does not have a casting vote. We believe the general practice is the other way.

A case referred to by the Grand Master in his Address was that of Halfway Lodge, which indulged in several curious practices. Thus, they initiated a candidate who had lost the first two fingers of his right hand; the work of the Lodge was done wholly by reading from books, and further, they indulged in a third ballot on a candidate who had been twice rejected. They "acknowledged their wrong" after the Grand Master had put some pressure on them, but the Committee on Jurisprudence thought that a little discipline would do them good, so recommended that the Grand Master suspend the Lodge for a while and if investigation does not show some hope of improvement, to withdraw its Charter altogether.

The same Committee have this paragraph on Correspondence Reports:

"These Reports are by far the most important Masonic educators produced by the press of the present age, and are so recognized to-day by the most distinguished Masonic students and authors of England and the Continent of Europe. A Mason who once begins to read them will most anxiously await their annual appearance, and profit by them as he cannot do by any other means. One book from our public libraries is read and returned, and taken out and read, again and again, until hundreds have become familiar with its contents and its teachings. If earnest and zealous Masons would pursue such a course with these reports, a similar result would be obtained, to the upbuilding and advancement of the Fraternity wherever the practice should prevail. Your Committee cannot at this time see any other way to secure the desired end than to recommend this practice with all the force of language at the moment's command."

The Grand Lodge adopted an edict making it a Masonic offence to make, sell, buy or use any "cipher work," and one requiring all dimitts from other Jurisdictions to be endorsed by the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction where they are issued.

A special committee on Negro Masonry made a lengthy report, endorsing the action of the Grand Master, and recommending the cessation of friendly relations with Washington until that Grand Lodge shall have reversed its action.

A Brother who was suspended by his Lodge for forty-nine years because he declared that the Bible was a fraud, written by designing men, appealed from the sentence, but without avail—he is still suspended.

An attempt to lower the fees for degrees was very properly "turned down."

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is again from the able pen of our learned and M. W. Brother Nicholas R. Ruckle. He reviews fifty-four English-speaking Grand Lodges besides giving a brief notice to the Grand Lodges Union, of Germany and to Mexico.

Before starting on his review proper he devotes considerable space to Negro Masonry, giving a very fair synopsis of the action of other Grand Lodges. Needless to say, his conclusions are entirely adverse to the Negroes. In this connection Brother Ruckle says:

"Can the Grand Lodge, or any other power, heal a clandestine Mason? A Mason made irregularly in a regular lodge may be healed by proper authority; but one made in a clandestine lodge can become a regular Mason only when re-obligated and remade by a regular lodge after petition and election."

We agree entirely with Brother Ruckle, but if he will turn to the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada (in the Province of Ontario), for 1896, page 31, he will see that the Grand Master of Canada, speaking of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, says:

"All members of this so-called Grand body who have applied *have been healed* and declared their allegiance to this Grand Lodge. Many of them have applied for affiliation to our lodges, and are now active and useful members of this Grand body. The surrender is voluntary and complete—the only concession granted being that members of the extinct body holding the rank of Past Master therein *are conceded that rank in any of our lodges* with which they may affiliate or to which they may be admitted."

(Italics ours.) Also in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, 1898, page 484:

"Your Committee agrees with the advice of the M.W. Grand Master that the course for a member of that defunct organization (the Grand Lodge of Ontario) to take is to obtain a certificate of standing from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada (in Ontario), and present that certificate with his application for membership to any lodge in this Jurisdiction, and such lodge may then proceed in the usual way as upon applications for affiliation."

There is no talk of re-obligating or of re-making in these instances, and we have noticed no complaint of Canada's action, so far.

Brother Ruckle does not favor the admission of saloon-keepers as members, but thinks that the end is to be attained rather by the use of the ballot than by legislation. He doubts the expediency of recognizing Mexican Masonry as at present conducted, though he thinks that were it practicable, such recognition would be of great value to Masonry, both in Mexico and the United States. He suggests the following plan to set everything right, and it certainly would, in our opinion, have the desired effect, *if it could be managed*.

"The Grand Lodge of Texas has been the premier advocate of Mexican Masonic recognition, and is conservative as well as sympathetic. Nobody is better entitled to represent the Grand Lodges of the United States. If there are no particular lodges in Mexico of such undoubted origin as to please the most exacting, let some one or more of the lodges which contain the greatest number of Masons made in the United States, by agreement with the Mexican Masonic authority, surrender its charter, and take a new charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas, in the name of those members who are indisputably regular Masons. Let those who may be irregular or clandestine according to the most strict construction, be healed or re-made, as the circumstances may require in such case. When enough lodges have been thus re-created, take steps to organize a Grand Lodge, with Constitutions and Regulations conformable to those of the Grand Lodges of the United States, thus settling in advance all objections to form of government. Dispensations and charters may then be issued by the new Grand Lodge to regular petitioners. Those members of old lodges who for any reason may be deemed to be irregularly or clandestinely made may, upon petition, be healed or remade in order to qualify themselves as petitioners for warrants. By this means the regularity of all would be assured, and the smell of the smoke not be left upon anyone.

"The rulers of the Gran Dieta must be convinced of the absolute good faith of all concerned, and that the amended administration would be restored to those of Mexican nationality or selection.

"If such general agreement can be secured, no trivial objection to details ought to be permitted to stand in the way of the accomplishment of this purpose.

"This plan will further require that the Supreme Council of Mexico exclude from its bodies all who do not enroll themselves in the lodges thus reorganized."

Why the *Gran Dieta* should be consulted, or where the connection with the Supreme Council comes in, is not apparent. We have been under the impression that there has been too much Supreme Council in Mexican Masonry already.

We fail to see what difference it makes to Masonry whether the Supreme Council restricts its membership to members of the re-organized Lodges or picks them up off the street.

M. W. William Geake, Grand Master.

R. W. William H. Smythe, Grand Secretary.

Since the above review was set up, we have received news of the death of M. W. Brother N. R. Ruckle, Past Grand Master, and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which occurred on the 4th of May last, but a few days before the Annual Communication of his Grand Lodge.

M. W. Brother Ruckle's administration as Grand Master was distinguished by marked ability, and among the writers of Reports on Foreign Correspondence he had already won an enviable position.

We regret the removal of so able a writer from the guild, and to his Brethren of the Jurisdiction of Indiana we extend our sincere sympathy.

INDIAN TERRITORY.

26th Annual Communication.

Wynnewood.

8th August, 1899.

The Grand Master opens his Address with a patriotic reference to the "late unpleasantness," but reminds the Brethren that whatever success they may have had has been obtained by the grace of the Almighty, to whom their thanks are due. He remembers in suitable language the eminent Brethren of other Jurisdictions who have been "called home" during the year.

The decisions recorded are as follows:

1. Can an Entered Apprentice pass upon the proficiency of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft pass upon the proficiency of a Fellow Craft?

Passing upon the proficiency of a candidate must be done in a Master Mason's Lodge, therefore neither an Entered Apprentice nor Fellow Craft can pass upon the proficiency of anyone.

2. Is a dimit, the visitor being unable to stand an examination, sufficient to pass him into the lodge?

No.

3. A lodge wishes to change that part or parts of its By-Laws relating to the time of meeting, fees, etc. Has it a right to do so without consent of Grand Lodge?

Yes.

4. Has a committee on the petition of a candidate for the degrees a right to use the lodge seal?

No.

5. Using the same evidence, can a brother be tried twice for the same offence?

No.

6. The W.M. being absent at (s'e) a regular meeting in November, the S.W. presided. The W.M. was present and presided at the December meeting. Who should sign the minutes of the November meeting?

The S.W. who served as W.M. at the November meeting.

7. A Fellow Craft, on waiver of jurisdiction from a Texas lodge to a Territory Lodge, petitions for the Master Mason's degree and is elected, but does not appear for the degree in three months. Is he subject to another ballot if the lodge desires it?

Yes.

8. A dimitted Mason petitioned a Territory Lodge for affiliation and was rejected. Immediately afterwards he was accused of un-Masonic conduct, but before the lodge met again he moved to Texas. Has the Territory Lodge a right to try him?

Yes.

9. Under the three ballot system several years ago, A was elected and received the E. A. degree, but was rejected for the F.C. degree. He now petitions for the other two degrees. How should we proceed?

Proceed as if the petition was for the three degrees under the present system.

10. Has a lodge a right to confer the degrees on a minister of the Gospel free of charge?

No.

11. Has a lodge the right to rent its hall to other societies or for other purposes?

If out of debt, no.

12. A sits in one lodge with B and in another with C. A introduces B and C to each other as Master Masons. B afterwards visits C's lodge. Can C vouch for B on A's affirmation?

No.

13. A was elected to take the three degrees in Velma Lodge, No. 41, I.T., in 1892. He was made an E.A. and soon afterwards moved to Texas, and, obtaining a waiver from Velma Lodge, was passed to the degree of F.C. in a Texas lodge. He now resides within the jurisdiction of Velma Lodge again and has petitioned for the M.M. degree. How should Velma proceed?

A should petition Velma Lodge, his petition being accompanied by a waiver from his Texas lodge. Velma should proceed as if the petition was for the three degrees.

The Committee on Jurisprudence did not approve of No. 3, and, we think, rightly. A minority of the Committee submit a report recommending that decision No. 3 be approved, providing that thirty days' notice of the proposed change be given to all the members. The minority report was adopted by the Grand Lodge.

There was some doubt over No. 6, but the majority of the committee approved of it, so it stood. Our opinion is that this decision should have been reversed.

Among the dispensations granted we notice one to allow a Lodge to confer the M. M. degree out of time on a railroad man who was ordered out of the Jurisdiction. Singularly, another Lodge was refused permission to confer the M. M. degree out of time on two candidates who wished to join the Chapter—surely a most laudable ambition.

The Grand Master was much exercised over the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, but though tempted to launch his thunder bolts at the offenders, he managed to control his passions and referred the matter to Grand Lodge. The Committee on Jurisprudence investigated the matter, and reported that as the Grand Lodge of Washington had receded from the position it took on the Negro question, there was no need to pursue the subject.

The Grand Master concludes a short, practical Address by recommending the Grand Lodge to take steps to participate in the Washington Memorial Services.

R.W. Brother James E. Humphrey delivered an Oration on "Masonic Research," which, it is said, "was interspersed

with practical remarks and eloquent digressions that were acceptable to all the Brethren."

The venerable Grand Secretary was delegated to represent the Grand Lodge at the Washington Memorial Ceremonies, with the Grand Master as alternate, and \$200 were voted to defray the expenses of the trip.

Of three Lodges under dispensation, two received charters, while one, owing to the unsatisfactory state of its records, will continue under dispensation for another year.

The Committee on Education report that in their opinion the time when they can have an "Orphans' Home" is near at hand. At present the available funds amount to \$1,221.83, which they recommend should be turned over to a Board of Trustees, to be invested in interest bearing securities.

On the evening of the second day of the session, the Grand Lodge had the pleasure of a visit from M. W. Brother William M. Eagleton, Grand Master of Oklahoma.

Just before the close of Grand Lodge it was moved that the usual appropriation of \$50.00, with which to purchase a jewel for the retiring Grand Master, be made. This was objected to by a W. Brother, who thought that the money might better be devoted to the Orphans' Home. It was then suggested that voluntary contributions be made—anything in excess of \$50.00 to be devoted to the Home. The collection thus obtained amounted to \$124.60, and Past Grand Master Nash "electrified" Grand Lodge by donating the \$50.00 raised for his jewel to the funds of the Home. Another Brother then moved that the sum of \$50.00, usually devoted for a Past Grand Master's jewel be this year added to the funds of the Home. This was carried *nemine contradicente*, and was clinched with the further resolution:

"That hereafter no appropriation shall be expected to be made nor a private collection taken for a Past Grand Master's jewel."

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

(Chartered Lodges, 91; under dispensation, 1; number of Master Masons uncertain, either 3593 or 3625, or possibly 3599.

M. W. Peter B. Arthur, Grand Master.

R. W. Joseph S. Murrow, Grand Secretary.

IOWA.

56th Annual Communication.

Mason City.

6th June, 1899.

We consider it no slight compliment to say that this volume is quite the equal of any of M. W. Brother Parvin's previous efforts. It is furnished with a group portrait of the elective officers of the Grand Lodge, (except the Deputy Grand Master), all intellingent, earnest-looking men, and all, with the exception of the venerable Grand Secretary, young. There are also portraits, with brief biographical notices, of M. W. Brother Crom. Bowen, Past Grand Master, and of R. W. Brother Sam C. Dunn, Past Grand Treasurer. In the Grand Secretary's report is a picture of one of the rooms in the library, while among the obituary notices is a page bearing the American flag emblazoned in proper colors and inscribed to the memory of those of their Brethren who fell in war.

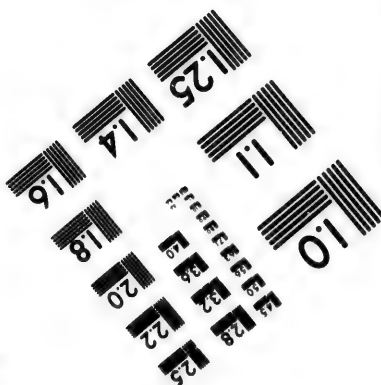
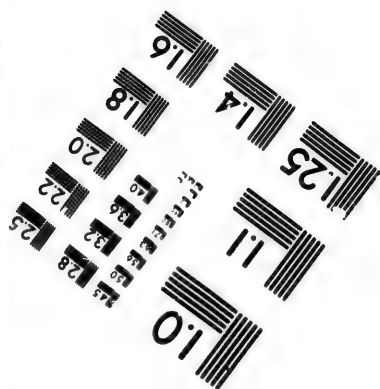
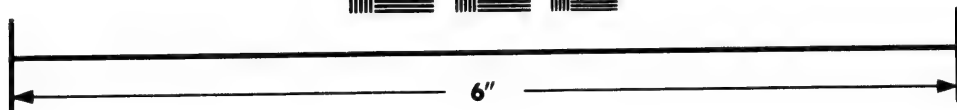
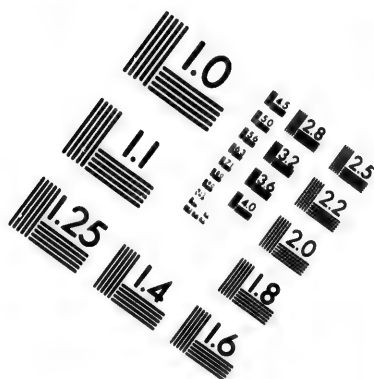
The Grand Master in his Address rejoices that the war with Spain has been brought to a successful conclusion, although "One of the necessary results of that war, the bringing of a semi-barbarous people within the beneficent influences of our own country, is, I regret to say, not yet fully accomplished."

"Among the earliest lessons taught the initiate is 'to regard the whole human species as one family; the high, the low, the rich, the poor—who as created by one Almighty Parent, and the inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other.' If our brother, in his blindness and ignorance will not allow us peacefully to aid, support, and protect him, our duty and our obligation to him has not ceased or been lessened thereby."

even if we have to shoot him to convince him of our peaceful intentions.

The Grand Master thinks that the social side of the Institution should be encouraged, but does not approve of billiards or pool as a means to that end. He was pleased to be able to restore the Grand Lodge of Peru to the list of those with whom they maintain friendly relations; referred the matter of "Negro Masonry" to a special committee which reported at this meeting; declined to sanction the formation of a "Military Lodge;" issued dispensations for three new Lodges, although he thinks there are already nearly enough Lodges in the State; and issued charters to two Lodges working under dispensation.





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Several matters requiring discipline were referred by him to the proper committee; a number of corner stones were laid by proxy; and one Hall was dedicated. The only decision recorded was in answer to the question "Who is a Past Master?"

The Grand Master states that in 1888 the law was amended so that the W. M. might resign his office, and concludes under the present law everyone who has been installed as Master and has served no matter how short a time, is a Past Master. He calls attention to the objections to such a law, pointing out that it is possible for a Lodge to have three or four Masters in a year. The Grand Lodge saw the incogruity of the law and amended it so that a Master has to serve for the full year before he can rank as a Past Master.

M. W. Brother Parvin reports in his dual capacity of Grand Secretary and Grand Librarian. Both reports are most interesting. The Grand Lodge Library is very near Brother Parvin's heart, and he makes a strong appeal for funds to provide a suitable building for it—at least a much-needed addition to the present building, which is already overcrowded. The Masons of Iowa may well be proud of their magnificent library and of its enthusiastic Librarian.

The amount disbursed in charity during the year was \$3,389.00. The Permanent Charity Fund amounts to \$5,800.00, and there is a cash balance in the Temporary Fund of \$1,136.00.

A resolution was introduced instructing the Grand Master to grant a charter to "Col. J. C. Loper and the fourteen other Master Masons in good standing" now in the Philippines, one of the conditions being:

"That they initiate none but Iowa boys of lawful age."

The Committee on Jurisprudence declined to recommend the granting of the charter, stating that the application had not come before Grand Lodge in the regular way, nor in the manner laid down in the Constitution. Besides, they give the following pertinent reasons why a charter should be withheld:

"Aside from the foregoing legal objections, your committee, at the peril of entering the domain of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Chartered Lodges, are constrained to say that as Masons and comrades we are in sympathy with the spirit of the resolution, yet aside

from the legal conclusion, believe the action contemplated in this resolution is impracticable for various reasons, among which are: *First.* Under the most favorable circumstances a dispensation could not reach its destination at Manila before the 10th day of July, 1899, and the President of the United States has promised these volunteers that they should be returned at an early date—one regiment of volunteers in the island is now about to depart for home. *Second.* The principal petitioner, Brother J. C. Loper, Colonel of the Fifty-first, Iowa, is far removed from his regiment, and sick in the hospital. *Third.* This regiment is upon the firing line and in active service, its battalions and companies often widely separated and engaged in such service as to preclude the possibility of doing any Masonic work under such dispensation if granted."

The committee on "Negro Masonry" presented their report, which is a courteous, but firm and emphatic denial of the Masonic legitimacy of the Negroes, and of the right of the Grand Lodge of Washington to take the action it did. They say:

"There is a well-defined line of demarkation between Masonic lodges that are regular and legitimate and those that are spurious and clandestine. There is no Masonic pathway leading from one to the other. Over the line that separates the true from the false no regular Mason can hold communication with the irregular and clandestine upon the secrets of Freemasonry without violating a fundamental tenet of the Institution as well as his most solemn obligation."

There seemed to be a very short and easy way, not so long ago, from the clandestine Lodges of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario to the regular Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Committee, however, doubts the propriety of declaring non-intercourse with Washington, but is content with expressing the earnest hope that the Grand Lodge of Washington will, at an early date, reconsider its position. Everyone will rejoice that this has already been done.

The Committee on Chartered Lodges call attention to the advantages which accrue from the selection of a competent Brother as Secretary. There is no use, they say, in selecting a Brother for that office because he is a "good old Mason," or because "he needs the fees of the office." Their opinion is, that this office is one of the most important in the Lodge, and the Brother selected for it should not only have a liking for the work, but be adapted to it. To which we would add, that when a Lodge has found such an officer, they should keep him.

Sixty-two other Grand Lodges are reviewed by Brother J. C. W. Coxe in an exceedingly fine Report of 132 pages. British Columbia receives a very complimentary notice, Brother Coxe's reference to our personal work being especially gratifying.

Brother Coxe is not prepared to recommend recognition of Mexican Masonry; favors legislation against liquor sellers; does not believe that a visitor has a right to *demand* a sight of the charter, though he thinks a courteous request should report of the Committee which recommended recognition of be acceded to. Under Washington, he gives *in extenso* the report of the Committee which recommended recognition of the Negro Masons, but without comment, his views being sufficiently expressed elsewhere.

He pokes a little fun at the "Scythe of Time," which is overworked by some Grand Masters, and suggests that it be hung in an apple tree and given a rest after its "immutable flight."

In his "Conclusion," Brother Coxe gives us his views on the "Negro question," and they are so eminently fair, and harmonize so thoroughly with our own that we are sure Brother Coxe will pardon us if we venture to copy them here, as he uses language much better than any we have at command:

"The 'burning question,' as we have before said, is the African in the wood-pile. Without presuming to enter the field of general discussion, we may here record some of our own convictions as to this unfortunate (and as it seems to us, gratuitous) controversy.

First. The Grand Lodge of Washington has not, strictly speaking, invaded the rights of any other Grand Lodge Jurisdiction.

Second. The American doctrine of jurisdiction accords to her the right to recognize as Masons citizens of African descent, if she is so minded.

Third. The Grand Lodge of Washington has not, if we understand aright, opened her own lodges to negroes, nor proposed visitation of negro lodges.

Fourth. Undue haste has in some cases begotten undue heat in speaking of this issue. Hard words are no legitimate substitute for hard arguments. When an historical question is in debate, cool heads are necessary if calm judgments are to be reached.

Fifth. The Grand Lodge of Washington went much further than was necessary in response to a request from two individuals who

claimed to be Masons, but whose claims (apparently) were subjected to no real test. The petitioners were unduly dignified by the action taken by the Grand Lodge.

Sixth. The historical argument as to the legitimacy of negro Masonry is a proper subject for discussion, and cannot be settled by either declamation or denunciation. The appeal is to facts, and logical inferences therefrom. The question involves several points :

(1) Were African lodges ever legally constituted? (2) Were lodges in Providence and Philadelphia legally constituted by Prince Hall or by African lodge? (3) What authority had Prince Hall for constituting lodges? (4) Was African lodge ever legally constituted? (5) Was Prince Hall lawfully made a Mason? (6) If not lawfully made, was he an irregularly made Mason, or clandestine? Other questions could be suggested, but these suffice to show that the issue involves the necessity of research, and cannot be settled *ex cathedra*.

Seventh. We record our conviction that the Grand Lodge of Washington made a serious mistake in promulgating its views on issues quite beyond any query addressed to them, and which involved the honor of other Grand Lodges. The primary question is one of courtesy to sister jurisdictions, and the rights of courtesy, we think, have been invaded by the far-reaching conclusions promulgated by the Grand Lodge of Washington, and all without any real justification. The alleged 'rights' of Bailey and Rideout are no nearer concession now than they were a twelve-month ago, if, indeed, their case and that of those whom they represent has not been damaged by this Washington action. We deprecate the severe language which has been dealt out to our brethren of Washington by some jurisdictions; we endorse the firm yet fraternal utterances of the jurisdictions most directly interested in the original questions; and we sincerely hope that our brethren of the Chinook Jurisdiction will see their way clear, without fear or favor, with no compromise of self-respect, but with fraternal regard for the peace and harmony of the Craft at large, to reconsider their action, and thus restore the friendly relations which have been interrupted by this unfortunate episode."

Iowa has 486 Lodges with 28,430 members.

M. W. Thomas Lambert, Grand Master.

M. W. Theo. S. Parvin, Grand Secretary.

IRELAND.

A small pamphlet from the Grand Lodge of Ireland gives a list of Grand Representatives; a list of members struck off the rolls for non-payment of dues; the names of Brethren restored to good standing, and of those suspended and expelled during the year, and a list of warrants issued during

1899, of which there were eight, including one at Johannesburg, South Africa, and one at Queenton, Queensland.

Two warrants were surrendered during the year.

The grants made by the Committee of Charity amounted to £258.12.6, besides which grants amounting to £1,135.14.9 were made for charitable purposes by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Charity Fund shows a balance of £680.14.2.

We have been favored with a pamphlet containing an Address delivered by the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Sir James Creed Meredith, LL.D., at the Stated Communication held on the 27th of December, 1899. He refers to the war now being waged in South Africa, and to the Brethren who are engaged in it, and hopes, with everyone, that peace will soon be restored. He is proud to think, however, that when the call to arms came, the Masons were foremost in responding, and he has pride in the fact that Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, is a Mason, and has held the office of Senior Grand Warden in the sister Grand Lodge of England, while the Chief-of-Staff, Lord Kitchener, is the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland near the Grand Lodge of Egypt.

Several prominent Brethren are missed from their meetings—notably Brothers Robert William Shackleton, Davenport Crosthwaite, and Dr. Edward Hamilton.

In the Provinces Masonry continues to make satisfactory progress, and the whole Address is full of encouragement to the Craft. Many points of interest are touched upon and a *resume* of the work of the Board of General Purposes is given. It is stated that the Board set aside a ballot because two Brethren in the Lodge at the time the ballot was taken were excused from voting.

M.W. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Grand Master.

R.W. the Right Hon. Lord Castletown, Grand Secretary.

KANSAS.

44th Annual Communication.

Topeka.

21st February, 1900.

The cover of this attractive volume is adorned with a portrait of the "Father of His Country," Brother George Wash-

ington, while just inside the cover is a splendid portrait on steel of M.W. Henry C. Loomis, Grand Master in 1899.

The Representative of British Columbia, W. Brother A. H. Connet, was at his post.

Immediately after the Grand Lodge had been opened, the Grand Master of Missouri, M.W. Corona H. Briggs, was announced and given a fraternal welcome.

The Grand Master's Address opens with expressions of thankfulness to God for his many mercies. The year has been a prosperous one, and has been marked by an intense spirit of patriotism. Considerable space is devoted to the Washington Memorial Observances, which, the Grand Master says, "unquestionably was the Masonic event of the century." No doubt, so far as Masons of the United States are concerned.

Being in a patriotic mood, the Grand Master recommends the enactment of a law requiring every Lodge in the State to acquire, and display in open Lodge, the flag of the United States, and to be consistent states that he had purchased one for the use of Grand Lodge. The suggestion was strongly endorsed by the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, and was referred by them to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who do not appear to have dealt with the matter—at least, we can find no further reference to it.

Just what place the flag of the United States, or any other national flag, has in a Masonic Lodge we do not know. We are not told that it forms part of the furniture, jewels, or ornaments of a Lodge.

The Grand Master paid an official visit to the Grand Lodge of Missouri; constituted two Lodges; issued dispensations for four new Lodges; laid five corner-stones, and granted a number of dispensations to confer degrees out of time—the reasons therefore not being given. He dealt with a number of cases of "discipline;" alludes with pardonable pride to the Kansas Masonic Home; states that he has not been called upon to make any decisions, and regretfully informs Grand Lodge that their Grand Tyler, W. Brother Delos W. Acker, does not improve in health, and that his further attendance at their Communications is improbable.

During the absence from the State of both the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the government of the Craft devolved upon the Senior Grand Warden. His official acts were confined to the granting of a dispensation to ballot upon the application of, and confer the degrees upon, a candidate in less than the regular time. He was satisfied, after due enquiry, that the request was "not made simply to meet the convenience of individuals, but was in the interest of the Order." It is not easy to tell, with the information at our disposal, just how the initiation of Mr. Geo. B. Penny was to benefit the "Order" to such an extent as to justify any haste in conferring the degrees on him, but we hope the benefit is apparent to the Craft in Kansas.

An Oration was delivered by Brother T. W. Jeffrey, which was listened to with much pleasure by the assembled Brethren. From the many beautiful thoughts contained in it, we transcribe the following:

"Masonry has its roots in the past, but its branches are in the future. Its excellent past only inspires us to a greater future. Masonry has its opportunity. Much as it has done to relieve distress, much as it has done to right the wrongs of the world, much as it has done to spread the blessings of universal brotherhood, much remains to be done. The future will not be unlike the past. The piteous wail of sorrow, the sob of pain, the cry of enforced loneliness, the dirge of distress, and the agony of death, will fill the world then as now. Passion will leap from the soul and seek the destruction of all the higher faculties, and men will throw loose the reins of their soul's chariot and dash madly to ruin then as now. Masonry will have its work to do. Its opportunity is great. It can take no backward step, for its face is to the future."

"After all this is a grand world in which we live: its mountain heights, its mystic ocean depths, unite in one continued hymn of praise to the Supreme Architect. We are in it to make it the Eden of God, to overcome it, to overcome ourselves, to make the most of life and its opportunities. But this world is only a vestibule adjacent to the Great Temple, and we are being divested of some things that seem needful now in order that we may be clothed with the garments of light and immortality yonder. And the promise is not to those who have drunk from the bleached skulls of fallen foes, or to those who have worn the purple of kings' mansions, or to those who have all their lifetime been greeted with applause, but the promise rings out clear and strong from the very heavens, through all the gallery of the stars, among all the nebulous ranges, among the constellations that flash and multiply in the track of night. 'Unto him that overcometh will I make to sit with me in the Grand Lodge on high.'"

The Directors of the Masonic Home announce that that institution continues to do its work unostentiously but effectively. The number of inmates at present is twenty-nine, four having died during the year. The cost of running the Home was \$5,997.09.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence from the facile pen of our M.W. Brother John C. Postlethwaite is fully the equal of any that have preceded it. He reviews, so far as we can see (no list is given), all the Grand Lodges with which they maintain fraternal relations. British Columbia for 1899 is handsomely treated. M.W. Brother Wilson is complimented by having several extracts made from his Address.

Of the work of this writer, Brother Postlethwaite is good enough to speak in terms of commendation, which we assure him are highly appreciated.

Chartered Lodges, 362; members, 20,859; gain 756.

M.W. Charles J. Webb, Grand Master.

R.W. Albert K. Wilson, Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

100th Annual Communication.

Louisville.

17th October, 1899.

The Grand Master reports that the year has been one of prosperity, and that nine dispensations were issued for new Lodges. In each case he required the petition for a new Lodge to have at least ten signatures attached to it—few enough, certainly, though some did not come up to even that standard and were sent back. He regrets that harmony has not been universal throughout the Jurisdiction, two or three Lodges having created some little disturbance. The Grand Master is a record breaker for decisions, those reported numbering forty-six. We note the following:—

8. Honorary members are not invested with any of the rights and privileges of active members.

9. The owner of a building in which a lodge meets has no right to deny anyone admittance to the meetings of the lodge. That power is vested in the Master.

10. A lodge should at once vacate a building or room where the owner thereof undertakes in any way to interfere with the rights and privileges of either the lodge, its members, or visitors.

13. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky does not specifically prescribe the form to be observed in the installation of officers. Therefore, it is left to the discretion of the retiring Master and the incoming Master to select the form, which may be found in any of the monitors.

14. A Grand Officer may also hold office in a subordinate lodge. If elected Master of a Lodge, and attends the session of the Grand Lodge, he must also represent his lodge.

18. Books purporting to give the esoteric portions of the lectures are discountenanced and condemned by the Grand Lodge.

24. A Mason who refuses or intentionally fails to pay a just debt, when within his ability to do so, commits a Masonic offence. The statute of limitation does not relieve the debtor from the moral obligation to pay the debt, if he is able to do so.

25. There can be no joint funeral ceremonies. Other orders or societies first have their ceremonies. The Masons then take charge as though no other organization was present, and our ceremonies do not end until the grave has been filled.

29. A special meeting of the lodge, called and held without the knowledge and consent of the Master, while he is within the limits of the jurisdiction of the lodge, is not a lawful meeting. This also applies to a special meeting called in his absence for the deliberate purpose of transacting business or conferring degrees when it is known to be contrary to the Master's wishes or judgment. The Grand Lodge holds the Master responsible for the welfare of the lodge, and there should be no conflict of authority.

Nos. 9 and 10 disclose a peculiar condition of affairs, and we should think it was about time for the Lodge to move. The Committee on Jurisprudence states that No. 24 is abstractly correct, but that practically it is best to keep such things out of the Lodge. We agree with them; a Masonic Lodge is not a collecting agency.

Requests for permission to circulate "Appeals for aid" were all denied, the "chain letter" method being especially condemned. The Grand Master laid the corner-stones of new Masonic Halls at Princeton and at Bandana; authorized one Lodge to meet without a charter, it having been burnt, and recommends the revocation of one charter. He urges closer study of the Book of Constitutions, particularly of the part of the Masters of the Lodges. He was obliged to suspend the Masters of three Lodges; one for using violent and unbecoming language in the Lodge; one for allowing a sus-

pended Mason to visit and act as an officer in a Lodge; and one for contumacious behaviour and disrespect of the Grand Master. He argues his position at some length, and his action in each case was sustained by the Grand Lodge.

The communication from the Grand Master of Wyoming relative to the establishment of a Supreme Lodge is referred to the Grand Lodge for action, but we do not find any report of action thereon. The circular from the Grand Lodge of Washington notifying the Grand Master of the reconsideration of their action of 1898 is printed in full, and on the strength of it the Committee on Jurisprudence recommended that the edict of non-intercourse be withdrawn.

Two eminent Kentucky Masons passed away during the year, M.W. Harvey T. Wilson, Grand Master 1859-60, and M.W. Reginald H. Thompson, Grand Master 1897, each of whom is remembered in fitting terms.

The Grand Master received a petition from a number of Brethren in Porto Rico, asking for a dispensation to open a Lodge at Ponce, in that Island. There seems to be some confusion in regard to Masonry in Porto Rico, for whereas certain Grand Lodges have recognized the Grand Lodge of Porto Rico, Grand Master Wilhelm states that the Lodges there are under the control of the A. & A.S.R. An effort was made to have the controlling body of this rite relinquish its control over the symbolic Lodges, but without avail. On this account the Grand Master refused to issue his dispensation, although as, according to his statement, there is no Grand Lodge in the Island, we see no reason why he might not have done so. The question also arises, what body is it that has been recognized by the Grand Lodge of Michigan?

A special committee, of which Past Grand Master J. Soule Smith was Chairman, brought in a lengthy report on "Official Visitation and Inspection." They state that:

"There can be no question that some plan of inspection for our subordinate lodges is needed, and badly needed. Secretaries are too often inefficient, and Masters are too often incompetent. Records are kept in a slovenly manner, minutes made on loose sheets of paper and imperfectly entered on the lodge book, or not at all; the Book of Constitutions is ignored entirely, or left to accumulate dust in the home of the Secretary or Master."

The remedy they propose is oral instruction, which must be free to all, and must be given by a competent instructor. It must be oral because, as the Committee say:

"This Grand Lodge has, from its birth until now, consistently refused to adopt or permit any system of 'book work,' and the late College of Custodians emphatically repudiated a proposition looking towards that result. *There is no authorized book containing the Kentucky work, and there never was.* Kentucky Masonry has not, and will not, set the seal of its approbation on any Judas Iscariot who has bartered his soul for thirty pieces of silver. Therefore, the Masonic teacher must be one who can know the false work and reject it."

The officers most needing instruction, the Committee further remark, are the Master and the Secretary, and they propose that this instruction shall be imparted by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary or their deputies on the nights of the Grand Lodge session. Besides this they recommend the appointment of a *corps* of Inspectors, corresponding apparently to our District Deputy Grand Masters, who should visit each Lodge and correct irregularities. We regret that the length of the report prevents us from giving more than this brief summary of it, and we also regret that the consideration of it was indefinitely postponed. We are convinced that if some such plan were adopted, in a few years there would be fewer of such cases as are disclosed in the reports of the Grand Master and the Committee on Appeals.

There is a brief report from the Committee on "Our Home," which discloses the fact that the Home is doing a good work and that its finances are in a satisfactory state. We find no reference, however, to the number of inmates it contains; its income, or the cost of running it; all of which would make interesting reading. As we understand it, the present Home is for the orphans of Masons, but it is intended this year to inaugurate a Home for old Masons. We heartily wish both institutions God speed.

Seven Lodges under dispensation were granted charters, while four continue to work under dispensation until next year.

We must not forget to mention the excellent portrait of M.W. James E. Wilhelms, Past Grand Master, which forms a frontispiece to the volume, and facing which is an illustration of the "Hiram Bassett Memorial Prize Medal," a bronze medal of which one is awarded annually to a boy and a girl

in the Home. Speaking again of the Home, reminds us that the title page of this splendid volume bears the imprint, "Printed at the Masonic Home Book and Job Office," and considering the fact that the inmates of the Home are discharged at the age of sixteen, it is certainly a wonderful production. A little more careful proof-reading would improve it, however.

After a rest of six years, M.W. Brother James W. Staton again takes up the reportorial pen, and furnishes a review of 148 pages, written in an easy, conversational style, which makes very pleasant reading. British Columbia is like the label on the bottle, but it is not Brother Staton's fault—the Proceedings did not reach him. He does not follow the plan adopted by his predecessor, Brother Clark, who favored the topical style of review, but falls back on the old plan of taking the different Grand Lodges in alphabetical order—which we much prefer.

Brother Staton has, like a good many others, worried over the subject of non-payment of dues, and thinks that Lodge Secretaries are to blame for most of it. He sees no good in the Grand Representative system, his experience with it while Grand Master having been the reverse of pleasant. We wonder why?

Brother Staton is not in favor of compulsory affiliation. He thinks that, so far as Kentucky is concerned, many dimit because unwilling to contribute their mite to the Home. His opinion is that such Masons should be cut off from all the privileges that are bestowed on affiliates. There are many Masons who join the Institution from a mistaken idea of its aims, and who soon become tired of it because they join from unworthy motives. Such men are better out of the Lodge than in it, and the Lodge is better without them. There are many others, however, who cannot afford the amount required to keep them in good standing, and who, having a delicacy about coming before the Lodge as applicants for charity, dimit rather than be suspended. These Brethren are, in British Columbia at all events, deprived of Lodge rights, but we see no good reason why, if the Lodge sees fit, they should not, when dead, be accorded a Masonic funeral; they are in good standing in the fraternity if not in the Lodge—unless suspended for cause.

Under South Carolina, Brother Staton thinks that:

"It is certainly in bad taste by those Grand Lodges which have stood aloof from the Grand Lodge of Peru to denounce the action of that Grand Lodge, when they have not as yet recognized that body was a Masonic organization at all."

We would ask, why? We think the Grand Lodge of Peru is recognized by all as a Masonic body, although some may not have maintained fraternal relations with it. If it erred—or when it erred—in removing the Great Light from its altars, it certainly laid itself open to criticism by all who have the good of the Institution at heart.

Brother Staton questions the decision of the Grand Master of Vermont, that a Master who succeeds himself is not a Past Master. It certainly is peculiar.

Number of Lodges on the roll, 468; membership 18,790, of which 688, or 3.66 per cent., are "free members."

M.W. John A. Ramsay, Grand Master.

R.W. H. B. Grant, Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

35th Annual Communication.

New Orleans.

12th February, 1900.

British Columbia's Representative did not attend this Communication.

M.W. A. C. Allen, Grand Master, read a very able Address. He congratulates the Craft that the unfavorable conditions which prevailed last year have, to a large extent, disappeared.

"The 'brighter era' then devoutly wished for, is dawning; the relief has come, and, I believe come to stay, brought about by the individual efforts and sacrifice of the Craftsmen of this Jurisdiction alone. The numerical strength of the Order has increased remarkably over that of the year 1898; the bonded debt of this Grand Body has decreased far beyond our expectations; the subordinate Lodges have been active and vigorous in their work, and the spirit of Masonry among us has been given a new impetus, indicative of larger and broader results for the future."

We congratulate the Grand Lodge and the Brethren of Louisiana upon the favorable outlook, and hope, with the Grand Master, that the good times have "come to stay."

It is said that "Every cloud has a silver lining," and the converse is, unfortunately too often true. While the Craft of Louisiana were rejoicing over their improved prospects, and were full of enthusiasm, there came the sad news of the death of their Grand Treasurer, R.W. Brother A. W. Hyatt. Brother Hyatt served the Grand Lodge as its Treasurer from the year 1875 until the time of his death, and his time, talents and purse were always at the service of the Institution.

The Grand Master regrets that, for reasons which appear satisfactory, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was not represented at the Washington Memorial services.

He thinks that the resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge of Washington in 1899 are more ingenious than ingenuous, and he hesitates to recommend the resumption of friendly relations with that Grand Lodge.

The Craft in Louisiana appear to have more or less trouble over the joint occupancy of Lodge rooms—at least it has been the cause of "unabated worry and trouble" to the Grand Master.

Like most other Grand Masters, Brother Allen has been deluged with requests for "rulings." As is always the case, most of these questions could have been answered by simply looking up the existing law on the subject, so that only those not specifically dealt with in the laws of the Craft are reported in the Address. The Grand Master decided that the daughter of a Master Mason who marries a profane is still the daughter of a Master Mason, and, as such, is entitled to Masonic aid and protection. He also decided that a man whose left arm had been amputated between the shoulder and elbow was not suitable material for the Masonic edifice. We think the Grand Master was right in both instances, and so did the Committee on Jurisprudence, although Brother Diehl, of Utah, would doubtless consider a man with one arm quite as well qualified for membership as one with a stiff knee. Another decision was to the effect that "A dimit when properly authenticated by the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction whence it emanated, and the identity of the holder

being satisfactorily established," constituted lawful Masonic information. We should hardly consider it such unless supplemented by a satisfactory examination.

The Grand Master very properly refused to grant dispensations to ballot on the applications of profanes in less than the statutory time. As he says, the law on the subject is plain; it is as binding on the Grand Master as on the Lodge which receives the application, and is as wise as it is imperative.

The financial condition of the Grand Lodge is most satisfactory. At the beginning of 1899 the bonded debt on the Temple amounted to \$56,800, together with a floating debt of \$3,000. During the year the bonded debt has been reduced \$12,800, and the floating debt of \$3,000 has been paid off. This is certainly a magnificent showing, and reflects great credit upon those in charge of Grand Lodge finances. It is to be hoped that the Brethren will follow the advice of the Grand Master, and "be not weary in well-doing," until they have a Temple free of debt.

The Grand Secretary, R.W. Brother Richard Lambert, read a carefully prepared statement of the work of his office. He states that charters were issued to two Lodges; four Lodges were organized under dispensation, and one dispensation continued. A list of special dispensations is given, some of which were to permit joint occupancy of Halls with other societies. In the list of "Commissions issued," we notice the name of W. Brother H. N. Rich as the Representative of Louisiana near British Columbia.

Two Lodges surrendered their charters; the Library received several additions, and a net gain of 128 in membership is reported.

The Louisiana Relief Lodge reports an expenditure of \$825.80, of which \$112 were for working expenses. There is a balance on hand of \$348.46.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence sustain the position of the Grand Master in relation to the Grand Lodge of Washington, believing that the recent action of that Grand Lodge simply introduces the "color line," which does not—or at least should not—form a feature of the discussion.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Lodges, 138; membership, 5,962.

M.W. Robert H. Cage, Grand Master.

R.W. Richard Lambert, Grand Secretary.

MAINE.

80th Annual Communication.

Portland.

2nd May, 1899.

A handsome portrait on steel of the Grand Master, M.W. Brother Joseph A. Locke, greets us as we open this volume. In his Address he rejoices at the prosperity of the Craft and of the country at large, and is thankful that the permanent membership of Grand Lodge has suffered no loss during the year. Other Jurisdictions, however, have suffered, and he fraternally remembers those who have been called away.

Five dispensations to confer degrees "out of time," and three to receive petitions from applicants *minus* the qualification of residence, were granted—all, the Grand Master states, "for good and sufficient reasons."

Three new Lodges were constituted, and three new Halls dedicated.

A number of decisions were rendered during the year, of which we copy those that seem of interest.

"Under the Constitution of this Grand Lodge every candidate who receives the third degree in a lodge thereby becomes a member of said lodge, and the Secretary shall record his name upon the roll of membership. (Constitution, section 111.) I call attention to this decision, which I have given several times, as lodges in this State have been requested by lodges in Canada and in other States, as a matter of courtesy, to confer the Second and Third degrees for them upon candidates who had received the E.A. degree in their several lodges."

"In this State the P.M. degree is a part of the installation service of a Master; and while it ought to be conferred before or at the time of installation it may be conferred afterwards."

"Question—? Temple Lodge, No. 86, and Warren Phillips Lodge, No. 186, have concurrent jurisdiction, now that Westbrook is a city?"

"Answer—Under section 94 of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge every candidate must apply to the lodge in the State nearest his resi-

dence . . . etc. As these two lodges are located in different parts of the city, I answer 'No.' The fact that Westbrook has now become a city makes no difference. The lodges hold the same jurisdiction they had before the city government was organized."

The first shows a practice differing from that obtaining in most Jurisdictions. Although we have a similar provision in our own Constitution, it has always been understood that it applied only to candidates petitioning for membership in the Lodge which conferred the degrees. Where a candidate has received one or more degrees in a Lodge and has had to remove before the work is completed, the remaining degree or degrees are conferred by the Lodge where he resides, *for* the Lodge in which the work was begun—the candidate becoming a member of the latter Lodge.

The last also differs from our practice, which is, that when two or more Lodges are situated in the same place (city or town) they hold concurrent jurisdiction.

Having learnt that the Grand Lodge of Peru had restored the Great Light to its altars, Grand Master Loeko issued a decree restoring friendly relations with that body. This restoration was somewhat delayed by a report that the Grand Lodge of Peru had exchanged Representatives with the so-called Negro Grand Lodge of Ohio. The report proved to be unfounded, however, so harmony prevails.

The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington *re* Negro Masons occasioned the Grand Master some surprise and sorrow. He had some interesting correspondence with the Grand Master of Washington, in which he points out that the position taken by that Grand Lodge is untenable and is sure to lead them into difficulties. He earnestly exhorts the Grand Lodge of Washington to reconsider its action and to rectify its error. As there are no Negro Lodges in Maine, he does not recommend the suspension of fraternal relations, but advises his Grand Lodge to protest against the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington.

He calls attention to the Report on Foreign Correspondence prepared by that able Masonic writer, M.W. Brother Josiah Drummond, and earnestly recommends his Brethren to read it. A perusal of it will amply justify his statement that, "No Mason in this State who wishes to be well-informed

in Masonic affairs and events, can afford not to examine it thoroughly."

The report of the Grand Secretary, R.W. Stephen Berry, states that the great gale which visited the Atlantic Coast on the 27th of November, 1898, caused the deaths of twelve members of their Lodges. Two deaths occurred in the army, presumably during the late war, but although Maine is largely represented in the navy, no deaths are reported from that branch of the service.

The Grand Secretary advises the Lodges to have a copy of their annual returns preserved by binding. He thinks that next to the records they are the most valuable property of the Lodge, and are certain to become more valuable and interesting as the years go by.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported that they had considered the decisions announced by the Grand Master last year and recommended that they be approved. They also recommend the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium, but consider that the *status* of the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido, of Portugal, did not warrant recognition at the present time, all of which, together with their recommendation that the action of the Grand Master in resuming relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, were adopted by the Grand Lodge.

Upon the report of a special committee, the Grand Master, and Past Grand Master Josiah Drummond, were delegated to represent the Grand Lodge at the "Washington Memorial Observances."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to which was referred the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington *re* Negro Masonry, report that as no Negro Lodges exist in the State, there has been no actual invasion of their rights, and consequently there is no need to proceed to extreme measures. They consider, however, that unless Washington sees fit to change its ways, Maine must ultimately stand by those Grand Lodges which have declared non-intercourse with Washington. For the present, however, they are content to recommend the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved: That the Grand Lodge of Maine again re-affirms the doctrine that every regular Grand Lodge has, *by inherent right*, exclusive jurisdiction within its own territory, and especially that no lawful lodge can be created or exist, and that no person can be made a Mason in that territory save under its authority.

Resolved: That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Washington, in adopting resolutions allowing its subordinates and members of its obedience to recognize as regular Masons, parties made in lodges in another jurisdiction held by the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction to be irregular and clandestine, has infringed upon a law held by all other English-speaking Grand Lodges to be binding upon *all* Grand Lodges.

Resolved: That this Grand Lodge fraternally but most earnestly requests the Grand Lodge of Washington to rescind those resolutions, to the end that the peace of the Craft may be restored and the interests of legitimate Masonry subserved.

M.W. Brother Josiah H. Drummond again favors the Brethren of Maine and the Masonic world at large with one of his carefully-prepared Reports on Foreign Correspondence. At the beginning of the Report he discusses the question of Negro Masonry under the heading "Jurisdiction of Grand Lodges." His remarks are a clear and lucid explanation of the question and should be read by all who have the opportunity. The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington meets with unqualified condemnation, and he says that the only way in which Negro Masons or their Lodges can be regularized is by the action of the Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction, while their Grand Lodges and their National Grand Lodge can never be made regular.

Brother Drummond, quoting from a report made by him in 1876 (page 310 of this year's Proceedings): "In America it is a landmark that no one can be made a Mason unless he is free-born." For information, we would ask Brother Drummond why, if it is a landmark in America, it is not a landmark elsewhere? Or can the landmarks be changed at pleasure? A little further on Brother Drummond shows that it is not a landmark even in America, for he says (page 311): "In the Dominion of Canada . . . the old *requirement* that a candidate must be 'free-born' has been changed as in England, to 'freeman.'" (Italics ours.) He says, too, in the same paragraph that in Canada "Colored men have been admitted to regular Lodges, they have organized Lodges and formed a Grand Lodge." That they have been admitted to

regular Lodges is well known. They *may* have formed Lodges, but that they have formed a Grand Lodge is news to us.

Under Arkansas Brother Drummond says that he is not opposed to the "mileage and *per diem* system." His views are exactly our own on the subject, and are so well expressed that we copy his remarks.

"It is for the welfare of the whole Craft that all the lodges shall be represented in the Communications of the Grand Lodge, and the burden of it ought to be borne by the whole Craft, so that the remote lodges shall not have a heavier burden in this respect than those situated near the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge. We have always advocated it and insisted upon it very strenuously, and have always opposed the proposition, which is frequently made, that the representatives of any lodge should not be allowed a greater mileage and *per diem* than the amount of dues paid by that lodge."

British Columbia receives a most courteous notice of over four pages. Brother Drummond thinks it was a curious state of things that Grand Master McLaren had to submit to an examination when visiting one of the Lodges.

He quotes our statement that "A Lodge may be opened on the authority of the Master," etc., and asks :

"Does it mean that the Master may give 'authority' to anyone he pleases to open the lodge, or in his absence and that of the Wardens, that the Junior Warden may do so?"

No, it does not mean that, Brother Drummond. It means that the Lodge cannot be opened without the presence of one of these officers, who, however, may request a Past Master, not *anyone*, to preside. In the case referred to (page 319), the Past Master could not have opened the Lodge in the absence of both Wardens.

We would like to copy extensively from this masterly report, but have reached the limit of our space.

Lodges, 195; members, 22,165; decrease 26.

M.W. Winfield S. Choate, Grand Master.

R. W. Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary.

MANITOBA.

24th Annual Communication.

Regina.

14th June, 1899.

Before opening, the Grand Lodge was presented, on behalf of the Town Council, with an Address of Welcome, which was suitably acknowledged by the Grand Master, M.W. Brother Geo. B. Murphy.

The Annual Address is a document of about ten pages in length, confined mainly to a narration of the Grand Master's official acts. He notes the death of R.W. Brother John Chambers, Past Grand Registrar, who was accidentally drowned, and of R.W. Brother John Cotton, District Deputy Grand Master, who succumbed to a painful disease.

The Grand Master is impressed by the fact that many Brethren who are honored with appointments as Grand Representatives fail to attend to the not very onerous duties pertaining to the office. He notified the Grand Masters of those Jurisdictions whose Representatives had not attended for some years, and submitted a fresh list of names for appointment.

Four Lodges were started under dispensation, and several other dispensations were granted, among which we notice two to confer degrees "out of time," the Brethren being about to leave the Jurisdiction. In one of these cases the Brother was about to remove to British Columbia, where he might have had the remaining degree conferred without any trouble. Two dispensations for this purpose were refused, as was one to allow a Lodge to bury a Brother suspended for non-payment of dues. To have done so, he says, would have violated their Constitution, in which case we would suggest that the Constitution be altered.

The decisions rendered number five, as follow:

1. That an applicant for the degrees of Masonry is not debarred from admission to the Craft through having lost his left hand.
2. That an applicant for the degrees of Masonry is debarred admission to the Craft through having lost a foot.
3. That a Worshipful Master of a lodge, when absent, cannot delegate powers and authority to another. Section 221 of the Constitution provides that "in the absence of the Master the Senior Warden (and in his absence also, the Junior Warden) shall succeed to and be charged

with all the powers and duties of the Master, except conferring degrees."

4. That a lodge cannot confer the E. A. degree on more than one candidate at the same time.

5. That lodge By-Laws have no force or effect until approved by the Grand Master.

Harmony is the rule throughout the Jurisdiction; foreign relations are of the most friendly character, and official visits were as numerous as circumstances would admit of.

The Grand Master issued a dispensation for the formation of a Lodge at Dawson City, but for some reason the Lodge had not been instituted up to the time of writing his Address. In this connection he mentions the receipt of a letter from M.W. Brother E. D. McLaren, asking whether the Grand Lodge of Manitoba claimed jurisdiction over the Yukon Territory, to which he replied that they regarded that section as vacant territory.

One corner-stone was laid by proxy; a committee was appointed to look after "The Victorian Aged and Indigent Masons' Fund;" the Lodges are requested to urge non-affiliated Brethren to join local Lodges, and the Grand Lodge is recommended to abolish the affiliation fee; the appointment of a Grand Lecturer is suggested, and the Grand Secretary is recommended for an increase of salary.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters show that these officers exercise a careful supervision over the work. Nearly all of them have Lodges under their charge where "the attendance of members was small." One District Deputy attributes it to the fact that the Lodge membership is too large. Brethren lose all hope of filling an office and so stay away. Others find that it is the older members—those who have "passed the chair," who cease their attendance because there are no more offices to fill. We have noticed this complaint not far from home.

The Grand Lodge was honored by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. A. E. Forget, with an invitation to an "At Home," and the local Lodges sent an invitation to a ball, both of which invitations were accepted with thanks.

It was ordered that a catalogue of the Masonic portion of the Library be prepared; a committee was appointed to ar-

range for the celebration of their quadro-centennial, and the boundaries of district No. 2 were re-arranged.

The Board of General Purposes presented its valedictory; the work done by it will in future be done by various committees.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is very brief. They do not advise exchange of Representatives with the Grand Orient of Belgium; they consider that the Grand Lodge of Washington erred, but do not recommend the abrogation of friendly relations, and they give a list of recognized Grand Lodges, in which the name of Peru does not appear, the Committee stating that recognition of that Grand Lodge should be left to the discretion of the Grand Master.

The Aged and Indigent Masons' Fund now amounts to \$800. It is recommended that when it reaches \$2,000 the interest on it be used for the relief of those for whom it was intended.

It was proposed to arrange the salary of the Grand Secretary on a sliding scale, to increase with every hundred new members until it reaches \$2,000. The matter was laid over, however, until next year.

A number of amendments to the Constitution were adopted, but they are rather unintelligible in the absence of a Constitution to refer to, so we refrain from comment.

Sixty Lodges with 2,870 members; a gain of 200.

M.W. John Leslie, Grand Master.

R.W. W. G. Scott, Grand Secretary.

MARYLAND.

The Semi-annual Communication was held in the City of Baltimore on the 10th of May, 1898, British Columbia being represented by Brother Charles W. Hatter.

The Grand Master, M.W. Brother Thos. M. Shryock, announced that he had granted dispensations for two new Lodges; the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer presented

their half-yearly accounts; the Committee on Foreign Correspondence recommended that the Grand Lodge prohibit intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and charters were granted to the two Lodges under dispensation.

Among the visitors at this Communication were M.W. Brothers J. D. Vincil and C. C. Wood, Past Grand Masters, and Brother Geo. H. Ray, Grand Chaplain, of Missouri.

An Emergent Communication was held at Frederick, on the 14th of June, 1898, to lay the corner-stone of the monument to Francis Scott Key. An interesting biographical sketch of the author of "The Star Spangled Banner" is given, with a graphic description of the circumstances under which this stirring National air was composed. A statement which has been puzzling us since we read the sketch is:

"Francis Scott Key, named after his grandfather and uncle, Dr. Upton Scott, a distinguished physician of Annapolis, was born," etc.

The 112th Annual Communication was opened in the manner peculiar to this Jurisdiction on the 15th of November, 1898—Brother Charles W. Hatter being on hand to represent British Columbia.

A deputation from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, consisting of M.W. Brother Duke, Grand Master, R.W. Brother Kemper, and Brother Sener, was introduced and received in a cordial manner, the Grand Honors being accorded Brother Duke.

Grand Master Shryock delivered a very short Address. In extending a welcome to the Brethren, he congratulates them upon the fact that Masonry in the Jurisdiction is in an extremely satisfactory condition. Discord is unknown, and the Lodges are prospering. The income of Grand Lodge is increasing and their debt is diminishing. Relations with other Jurisdictions continue to be most friendly, except that the action of Washington has caused a little cloud to appear on the far-off horizon. The Grand Master advises the Grand Lodge to accept the invitation of Virginia to participate in the Washington Memorial Observances, and says that he has not been called upon during the past twelve months, to make an official decision, which he attributes to the law requiring the Rules and Regulations of Grand Lodge to be read in the Lodges.

A dispensation was granted to an Army Lodge, and several special dispensations were issued. From reading the list we gather that a Lodge in Maryland cannot hold an Emergent meeting without a dispensation, which is certainly different from the general custom.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made a special report on the subject of Negro Masonry. Like most other committees which have handled the subject, they pronounce adversely to the claims of the negroes. They do not, however, like some others, go into hysterics over the matter, but in a firm, yet fraternal manner, call upon the Grand Lodge of Washington to reconsider its action. They also recommend the resumption of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru; advise the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and suggest the propriety of waiting a while before entering into fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of Belgium.

The Lodge of Relief report their available funds to have been \$600.42, of which \$358.37 were expended in charity and \$18 for expenses.

The invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia to participate in the Washington Memorial Observances was accepted.

Brother E. T. Schultz, who for twelve years has written the Reports on Foreign Correspondence for this Grand Lodge, asked to be relieved from further duty in this respect, on account of failing eye-sight. The Grand Master declined to entertain the request, believing that with the help of an amanuensis Brother Schultz could continue to perform the work, and in recognition of his valuable services in this line he was elected "Chairman Emeritus" of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. A committee was also appointed to procure, and present him with, a suitable testimonial. A capital likeness of this distinguished Brother is inserted in the Proceedings.

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held on the 27th of December, 1898, for the purpose of presenting to Brother Schultz the testimonial above referred to. A picture of the testimonial, a handsome silver "loving cup," is given in the Proceedings. The presentation speech was made by M.W. Brother John M. Carter on behalf of the committee,

and after some further remarks by other Brethren, it was filled with wine and presented to the Grand Master, who partook of its contents and saluted Brother Schultz with the words :

“ Brother Schultz, I drink your health.”

It was then presented to every Brother present in turn, and each, saluting Brother Schultz, drank from it.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, doubtless on account of Brother Schultz' affliction, is not in the usual style of such reports, but is an exposition of his views on certain important Masonic matters. It is exceedingly interesting, and could be read with profit by every Mason. We should like to quote from it freely, but must content ourselves with the following extracts, the first relating to non-affiliation, and the second from his remarks on how “ To make Lodge meetings attractive.”

“ How then can the evil of non-affiliation be remedied? In my opinion it may be. In the first place, receive no petitions from any one who merely wishes to use the lodge degrees as stepping-stones to something he has heard is higher and more important. To illustrate what I mean, I will relate the following incident: While sojourning at a watering place, summer before last, I was introduced to a gentleman from Ohio, who, learning that I was a Freemason, took occasion to tell me that he had many friends among the Masons, some of them very high, having taken the degrees of the Shrine, and from some things that they let fall in his presence he thought that the Shrine degree must be a grand affair; that he had made up his mind that in less than a year he would be a Shriner; and that for this purpose, immediately upon his return home from his vacation, he intended to put in his application to the lodge. Believing that this gentleman's motives were not those sanctioned by the ancient regulations of the fraternity, I gave him no encouragement to become a Mason.”

“ In my opinion, a fruitful cause of the lack of interest in our lodge meetings—to the older members especially—is the practice, now so general, of rotation and yearly change of officers, by which it is impossible to have thoroughly experienced officers in the chairs. It may be said that the abrogation of this practice will check the ambition of the younger brethren, and there will be no incentive for them to learn the work. I would be the last to do, or say anything, to check the desire of a brother to acquire a knowledge of Freemasonry. On the contrary, I would have everyone perfect himself in the Rituals of the Order; but I would have them know that something more is required than a mere knowledge of the rituals to enable one to successfully perform the duties of the Master. There should be a familiarity with the Ancient Charges, regulations, land-marks, usages and customs, as well as the

history of the fraternity, which can only be acquired by study and experience."

Brother Schultz says that this is his last Report, but we hope to meet him again next year and for many years.

Lodges, 103; members, 7,784.

M.W. Thos. J. Shryock, Grand Master.

R.W. Jacob H. Medairy, Grand Secretary.

The regular Semi-Annual Communication was held on the 9th of May, 1899, in the City of Baltimore.

The principal business of the session was a short statement from the M.W. Grand Master of Representatives appointed to and from the Grand Lodge of Maryland since their last meeting, with a list of fraternal dead. There are also financial statements from the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Certain amendments to the Constitution were considered, and a uniform code of By-Laws for the Lodges was adopted.

The 113th Annual Communication was held on the 21st of November, 1899.

The Grand Master, M.W. Brother Thos. J. Shryock, congratulated the Craft upon the restoration of harmony by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington last year. He laid the corner-stone of the State Normal School at Frostburg, the local Lodges entertaining the Grand Officers in a handsome manner. He is pleased to be able to state that their floating debt has been wiped out, and a markedly improved condition of their finances is apparent. He recommends the appointment of a committee to represent the Grand Lodge at the services in memory of Brother George Washington, and notes that one of their own members, W. Brother John R. Edwards, Grand Sword Bearer, has been called away during the year.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported in favor of the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium. A request from the Grand Lodge of Porto Rico was laid over, for lack of information.

Certain of the Lodges in Maryland have charters from the General Assembly. A special committee appointed to consider the request of one Lodge for permission to apply for an amendment to its charter, say:

"That they recommend to all subordinate lodges having civil charters the wisdom of surrendering the same, and the holding of their property through trustees."

They offered the following resolution :—

"That all lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge are hereby forbidden to apply to the General Assembly or to any of the courts of the State for charter or any amendments to any existing charter without first obtaining the permission of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland."

Both the recommendation and resolution were adopted.

The Representative of British Columbia, Brother Chas. W. Hatter, was present at both the Semi-annual and the Annual Communications.

We are glad to see that Brother Schultz reconsidered his decision of last year, and again favors us with a Report on Foreign Correspondence. The one regret we have in connection with it is the fact that Brother Schultz was obliged to prepare it with the assistance of an amanuensis—his eyesight, unfortunately, not being able for the task.

He reviews, somewhat more briefly than usual, the doings of fifty-six other Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898. He quotes from the Address of M.W. Brother McLaren, and thinks the passing of an examination before being allowed to visit a Lodge would be a peculiar experience for a Grand Master.

103 Lodges; 8,021 Master Masons.

M.W. Thos. J. Shryock, Grand Master.

R. W. Jacob H. Medairy, Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS.

We are in receipt of pamphlets containing the proceedings of this Grand Lodge at Quarterly Communications held 8th of March, 1899; 14th of June, 1899, and 14th of

March, 1900, together with the records of several Special Communications.

At the Quarterly of the 8th of March, 1899, the report of the architects of the new Temple was received, from which it appears that the work is progressing in a satisfactory manner. In order to complete the building and furnish it properly an additional loan of \$40,000 was authorized.

Fraternal relations were resumed with the Grand Lodge of Peru.

At the Quarterly of the 14th of June, 1899, a further report from the architects was presented. The matter of arranging for the dedication of the new Temple was referred to by the Grand Master, who thought, in view of the present financial condition of Grand Lodge, a parade on the lines of that held in 1867 would not be advisable. It was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of the Grand Master with power to act.

There is also a long address by M.W. Brother Sereno D. Nickerson, Grand Secretary, in which he refutes the claim of Philadelphia to be considered "the Mother City of Freemasonry in America." The remarks of the Grand Secretary are extremely interesting, but are too long to be reproduced here.

At the Quarterly held on the 14th of March, 1899, it was announced that several articles had been presented for use in the new Temple—a beautiful marble clock and a handsome pair of andirons.

The Grand Master made the sad announcement of the death of R.W. Charles H. McClellan, Past Grand Warden.

A proposed amendment to the Constitution making Past District Deputy Grand Masters permanent members of Grand Lodge was defeated.

Special Communications were held as under :

April 19th, 1899, at Ayer, to dedicate a new Masonic Hall.

April 25th, 1899, at Medway, to lay the corner-stone of Christ Church Parish House.

January 2nd, 1900, at Wollaston, to constitute Wellaston Lodge, and

March 27th, 1900, at Marblehead, to dedicate the new Hall of Philanthropic Lodge.

M.W. Charles T. Gallagher, Grand Master.

M.W. Sereno D. Nickerson, Grand Secretary.

MICHIGAN.

56th Annual Communication.

Detroit.

23rd January, 1900.

The Grand Lodge was formally welcomed to the City by the Mayor, Brother William C. Maybury, and on behalf of the Detroit Brethren by Brother Walter C. Robinson.

A delegation from the Grand Lodge of Canada, consisting of M.W. E. T. Malone, Grand Master, R.W. F. B. Hungerford, Deputy Grand Master; R.W. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary, and a number of Grand Lodge officers, was announced, received with the Grand Honors, and invited to seats in the East. These visits of courtesy between different Grand Lodges are, we are glad to note, becoming of increasing frequency. They are much to be commended as showing practically the Brotherly love and good fellowship which exist between the Jurisdictions, and cannot fail to be of benefit not only to the individual Brethren who are fortunate enough to be able to participate in them, but to the Craft at large.

In a few feeling words the Grand Master announced the death of one of their Past Grand Masters, M.W. Brother John S. Cross.

In the list of Grand Representatives present appears the name of Brother Reuben C. Webb, Representative of British Columbia.

The Grand Master delivered a magnificent Address. It is probably the longest of the year, covering about 115 pages of the Proceedings, but is excellent reading all the way through. He mentions the fact that Detroit was the birthplace of the first Masonic Lodge in the State, which is still

one of the most active; reminds the delegates that their duty is to attend the session of the Grand Lodge; states that the condition of the Craft is most satisfactory, and records the institution of two new Lodges. He does not agree with their law which provides that non-affiliates who fail to petition a Lodge for membership shall, *ipso facto*, stand suspended. The Grand Master is not in favor of rushing candidates through the degrees, and in each instance where a dispensation was granted to confer the degrees in less than the usual time, insisted that the candidate should contribute an extra \$10.00 to the funds of the Lodge. On this subject he says :

"I am convinced that, in our mad rush for material, we are doing too much of this sort of thing. I am informed that in Holland a year must elapse between the conferring of each of the degrees; and in many jurisdictions, especially those in foreign countries, barriers to the 'degree factory,' 'hopper' style of making a Mason are being erected rather than pulled down, the consequence being that Masonry is there regarded as worth something; and when a man has received the three degrees he feels that he has achieved a distinction rather than bought so much merchandise."

He refused dispensations to allow Lodges to participate in receptions to returned volunteers, or in Decoration Day parades; is convinced that great care should be exercised in issuing dispensations for new Lodges; arrested one charter; laid three corner-stones; dedicated seventeen new Halls, and (by proxy) seventy-one old Halls that had never been dedicated. A number of official visits were made, and a large amount of business transacted, of which, for lack of space, we are compelled to omit mention. We note, however, that our R.W. Brother H. H. Watson was commissioned to represent Michigan near this Grand Lodge.

Seventy decisions are recorded, covering all manner of subjects. We are again compelled to omit much that would be of interest, but must content ourselves with saying that everyone is based on the soundest kind of common-sense.

Upon the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Grand Lodge decided to recognize the Grand Lodge of Porto Rico and the Grand Orient of Belgium.

A report of Mexican Masonry by M.W. Brother Hugh McCurdy furnishes the most complete exposition of the *status* of that organization that we have read. It is a very long document, covering twenty pages of the Proceedings. His conclusion is :

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"Your Committee rests fully assured that this petition for recognition, by this Grand body, on the part of the Gran Dieta, is largely influenced, more by a desire to ingratiate itself into the good graces of regular Masonry, than from any sincere desire to sustain and maintain, the Constitution, laws, edicts, and ancient observances of the Institution, and judging from the past record of the Gran Dieta, your Committee cannot recommend it to the confidence and full acceptance of this, or any other Grand body of regular Masons, working in strict accordance with the ancient landmarks and laws of the Order. Therefore, in view of all the foregoing facts, your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :—

"Resolved: That the prayer of the petition of the Gran Dieta Symbolica of Mexico, presented to Grand Lodge, at its last Annual Communication, asking for recognition as a body of regular Masons, by this Grand Lodge, be and the same is hereby denied."

At the last Annual Communication three colored men who called themselves Masons, emboldened by the favorable result of a similar application to the Grand Lodge of Washington, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Michigan for recognition. The matter was referred to the special committee mentioned above who gave it their careful consideration, with the result that the prayer of the petitioners for recognition was denied.

The same able committee had the Washington trouble under advisement, and are gratified at being able to report that their friendly remonstrances (with those of other Grand Lodges) have had the desired effect, the obnoxious resolutions passed by Washington having been rescinded. They conclude with the following well-merited rebuke to certain Grand Lodges which excommunicated Washington with bell, book and candle :

"As this Grand Body passed no edict of non-intercourse against the Grand Lodge of Washington no action is required by Grand Lodge, however, we cannot close this report without reminding the Grand Lodges which did pass edicts of non-intercourse of Masonic duty not performed. How does their action square with the golden rule to cover faults, foibles and errors of a brother? Did they remind their brothers of their errors and aid in their reformation? No. Without any admonition, without a kind and fraternal word, they touched the button and electrocuted 5,000 brothers in Washington without asking an explanation, or giving them a chance to repent or ask forgiveness. All men err and erring need repentance. The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, in promptly rescinding the objectionable resolutions at its next communication in June, 1899, when asked to do so by a few of its sister Grand Lodges, is worthy of all praise and commendation; and this Grand body extends to the Grand Lodge of Washington its hearty congratulations for its prompt and wise action

in removing this disturbing question from the Masonic trestle-board, and restoring harmony in the great Masonic family, where strife and contention should never exist, save the noble contention who best can work and best agree."

The Grand Lodge concurred in the Grand Master's recommendation that the allowance for the Grand Master's expenses be increased, and raised it to \$750. His suggestion as to economy in the printing and distribution of their Proceedings was also adopted, but the Grand Lodge went further than the Grand Master, and decided that for the future the Report on Foreign Correspondence shall be dispensed with.

A portrait of the retiring Grand Master, M.W. Frank T. Lodge, faces the title page and one of M.W. John S. Cross, Past Grand Master, is found among the pages "in memoriam."

Brother Conover writes the Report on Foreign Correspondence and condenses it into about fifty pages. It consists mainly of decisions by different Grand Masters with nothing in the way of comment. At the last meeting of Grand Lodge he was instructed to "cut it short," and he has done so. His "Conclusion" takes up but four lines; it is:

CONCLUSION.

"My task is finished and I am glad of it. I do not think this report is worth the paper upon which it is written, but it complies, in all respects, with the instructions given me, and such as it is, it is."

Chartered Lodges, 386; membership, 41,917, gain 1,537.

M.W. Lucian E. Wood, Grand Master.

R.W. Jefferson S. Conover, Grand Secretary.

MINNESOTA.

47th Annual Communication.

St. Paul.

17th January, 1900.

The frontispiece to this volume is a splendid portrait of R.W. Brother Joseph H. Thompson, who has served the Grand Lodge as Grand Treasurer since 1878.

British Columbia was represented at this Communication by Brother Roland H. Hartley, and among the distinguished

visitors present was M.W. Brother William G. Bell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

The Address of the Grand Master is a clear, business-like paper. He states that peace and prosperity are to be found within their borders, and expresses gratitude to the Giver of all good for the many mercies showered upon them. He chronicles in tender language the deaths of two beloved Brethren, M.W. Alphonse Barto, Past Grand Master, and W. Brother Stiles Raymond, one of the Custodians of the Work.

Three Lodges were constituted during the year; one charter was restored, and six dispensations for new Lodges were granted. One petition for such a dispensation was refused.

The eight decisions recorded in the Address are all evidently in accord with local Masonic law, as all were upheld by the Grand Lodge. They do not appear to cover any new point of Masonic Jurisprudence.

One Hall was dedicated, one corner-stone laid, and many official visits were made. The Grand Master gives an interesting *resume* of the Proceedings at the Washington Memorial Services at Mount Vernon, which he attended; suggests that some steps be taken to commemorate their semi-centennial, which will occur in 1903, and advises a revision of the Digest.

The Grand Secretary, R.W. Brother Thos. Montgomery, submits an interesting report. He states that the net gain in membership for the year was 482, making the total membership 16,401. According to the report of the Grand Treasurer, over \$3,000 were expended in relief. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund now amounts to \$21,767.70, most of which is invested at four *per cent*.

A committee was appointed at the last Annual Communication to formulate a plan for the better dissemination of the esoteric work. Their report as amended is printed in the Proceedings, and provides for the appointment of a number of District Deputy Grand Masters, who shall have general supervision of the Craft in their respective Districts, and of a "Board of Custodians," who shall hold a general Lodge of instruction in St. Paul or Minneapolis, besides which each

member of the Board shall hold a similar school in the District assigned to him. Action on the matter was deferred until next year.

An excellent Oration was delivered by Brother H. D. Dickinson on the theme "Character and Duty." It is in every way worthy of the place accorded it in the Proceedings.

Fifty-five Grand Lodges are reviewed by W. Brother Irving Todd in another of his admirable Reports on Foreign Correspondence. We have often envied his ability for condensation and wondered how he got so much information into so small a space, but we believe that we have discovered the secret—he confesses to forty years of newspaper experience. British Columbia for 1899 receives a short notice, the Report of your Committee on Foreign Correspondence being favorably mentioned.

As is customary, the report of the Proceedings of the Masonic Veteran Association of Minnesota appears in the volume. It is a document of much interest, and contains a photogravure of the old "Central House" at St. Paul, where the first Masonic Lodge in Minnesota was organized on the 8th of September, 1849. There are also portraits of Brothers O. H. Kelley, D. W. C. Dunwell, and Geo. Egbert, three of the oldest Minnesota Masons. The description of the initiation of the first-named Brother is so interesting that we copy it for the information of our Brethren:

"The first Territorial Legislature convened September 3rd, 1849, in the parlors of the Central House. C. K. Smith was the first Secretary of the Territory. I had the honor of being 'messenger of the lower house.' That position brought me many times daily into the office of the Secretary, and we became quite friendly. He told me he had found enough old rusty Masons to organize a lodge, and a dispensation had been received from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. A week or two after its reception, I was invited to pose as a candidate. They wanted some one upon whom to practice, and I was supposed to be good material. I do not remember about the ante-room, but I do recall the fact that when I entered the lodge I had no need of a grip sack for extra clothing, or bric-a-brac.

"Observation in Masonic lodges since convinces me that Smith was right when he told me he had found 'rusty Masons.' I had not made three steps into the room before a discussion opened as to the proper course to pursue. As it made no difference to me, inasmuch as I had never been in a lodge before, and I was going it blind, after being toted about from one to another, and the debate on 'how to do it,' continuing,

I suggested they finish me, and do the disputing afterwards. Some one—I think the Master—very blandly informed me it was none of my business, and that I would be finished in due time. Well, all things come to those who wait, and I soon saw all that was necessary.

"The St. Paul Hotel was a two-story log building, weather boarded. The rooms were lathed and plastered. If memory serves me correctly, the Masonic Hall was in the attic of the L, and it was unfinished. The rafters were tamarack poles, from which the bark had not been removed. The logs on the sides and ends of the room made the wainscoting. The officers' desks were empty barrels, set on end. Each had a chair, or nail keg, for a seat. The altar was an empty packing box, and three old candle-sticks, with half-burned tallow dips illuminated a well-worn Bible, square and compasses. To me, it was a gloomy picture. A blacksmith shop would have been equally attractive. The charge, or lecture, by C. K. Smith, was very well delivered, but the hat he wore had been, to my certain knowledge, unceremoniously sat upon the night before. Several times during the ceremonies, it required considerable effort to keep from a fit of laughter. I have never been in a lodge-room since where the candidate was allowed to sit down while the Worshipful Master explained to the officers 'what to do and how to do it.'"

M.W. Alonzo Brandenburg, Grand Master.

R.W. Thomas Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

MISSOURI.

79th Annual Communication.

Kansas City.

17th October, 1899.

Facing the title page is a well-executed portrait of the retiring Grand Master, M.W. Ethelbert F. Allen, who had the happiness, on behalf of Grand Lodge, of extending a hearty welcome to M.W. Henry C. Loomis, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas and several of his associate officers.

The Annual Address records the prosperity of the Craft; mentions those who have been "called away" during the year, prominent among them being Brother Morris Leftwich, who for ten years was superintendent of their Masonic Home; notes the constitution of nine new Lodges, and gives a list of dispensations granted. Among the dispensations refused were the following: To waive proficiency and examination, and to confer two degrees upon a candidate at one meeting; to waive the requirement of sufficient residence; to act upon

the petition of an applicant who was under age; to lay the corner-stone of a building erected for purely business purposes; and to issue circulars soliciting charity.

The charters of three Lodges were arrested; five dispensations for new Lodges were issued; several corner-stones were laid, and a pleasant visit was paid to the Grand Lodge of Kansas at its Forty-third Annual Communication.

A peculiar provision in the law of the Grand Lodge of Missouri enacts that a Brother who has served as Master in a Lodge outside of that State does not retain his rank when he moves into that Jurisdiction—or, at least, is not eligible for membership in the Grand Lodge unless he has served as Master of some Lodge in the State. The Grand Master says :

"I know of no reason why a Past Master hailing from a sister jurisdiction, who has become a citizen of Missouri, and has affiliated with a lodge belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction, should not enjoy the same privileges and memberships as the Past Masters of our own lodges."

His suggestion that the law be changed was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and on their report the Grand Lodge resolved that a Past Master from another Jurisdiction might be elected to membership in the Grand Lodge.

The decisions reported relate mainly to matters of local interest. We copy the following :—

Charges are preferred *vs.* a brother for profanity and false accusation. *Question*—Are such Masonic offences? *Answer*—Yes.

A brother asks his lodge for a dimit, charges are preferred against him, and trial results in his acquittal. An appeal is taken to the Grand Lodge, the case is remanded for another trial, the result of the second trial is acquittal; an appeal is again taken to the Grand Lodge, and the verdict of the lodge is sustained. *Question*—Must the brother pay dues while the charges were pending? *Answer*—Yes. Unless remitted by his lodge.

Can a brother be legally elected and installed Worshipful Master of a lodge outside of the jurisdiction of the lodge in which he resides? *Answer*—Yes. What is his official standing if he is installed and serves the full term undisturbed? Is he a legal or clandestine Past Master? *Answer*—A legal Past Master.

A petition is presented in due form and referred to the proper Committee on Investigation; the Committee reported favorable and the candidate was elected and took the First degree. Then lodge learned later that the candidate had only resided in the State seven months previous to his election. The Committee had been informed by an out-

sider that the candidate had been a resident of the State for the last two years. The lodge asked: "Let us know how to proceed?" *Answer* —The candidate is entitled to receive the remaining degrees.

The amendment to the Constitution, passed last year, permitting persons with artificial limbs to become members of the Institution has, itself, been the cause of a number of queries. Accordingly, the Grand Master decided that the following were eligible; one with his left leg off below the knee, but with an artificial leg; one with a partially stiff knee, who cannot kneel within twelve inches of the floor; one with a leg off above the knee, but who walks with an artificial leg, and one with an artificial foot. Among the ineligible are persons with the right arm off to the elbow; with the thumb and forefinger of right hand gone; with right leg off below knee; with right thumb off, and with right hand off at the wrist.

The purchase of a new Grand Lodge Register having become necessary, the Grand Master authorized the purchase of one of the "card index" system, and his action met with the approval of the Grand Lodge. This system is being adopted by many Grand Lodges, and when its advantages are considered, the wonder is that it is not adopted by all.

Non-payment of dues; Mexican Masonry, and the Washington Memorial Observances are touched upon briefly. The Grand Master pays a deserved tribute to the energy and faithfulness of the Grand Secretary, R.W. J. D. Vincil, and concludes an able Address with these inspiring sentiments :

"May its teachings sink deep into our hearts and shine forth in our lives as living examples of everlasting truth. May brotherly love and affection be manifest in every act. May that charity 'which suffereth long and is kind, which thinketh no evil, believeth all things, beareth all things, endureth all things,' shine in the grace of your presence and lend a charm to your words and a potency to the magic of your smiles. Then when our days on earth are ended, and the Temple which each of us is building day by day in the unseen realm of our spiritual existence shall be completed, and we 'Walk through the valley of the shadow of death,' we 'Will fear no evil,' but with faith in God and His promises we will meet the Master who has said, 'Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me to give to every man according as his *work* shall be.'"

An excellent Oration on the "Symbolism of Masonry," was delivered by Brother the Rev. W. W. Boyd. It is full

of beautiful thoughts, and was listened to with much pleasure and profit by the Brethren.

A special committee reported that they had considered the subject of Mexican Masonry, and could not, at the present time, recommend its recognition. They express the hope, however, that it may soon be in a condition to warrant such a step.

The Grand Lodge voted \$625 in special grants for charity, besides which the Boards of Relief of St. Louis, St. Joseph, Springfield, and Kansas City report that their disbursements in this line amounted to the total of \$1,595.15.

The amendment to the By-Laws, passed last year, which declared persons with artificial limbs to be qualified for membership, was repealed. The By-Laws were further amended to enable Lodges to attend the funeral of a Brother, "whether the Lodge or any other Masonic body, perform the Masonic funeral rites at the grave."

The Report of Foreign Correspondence is a document of 156 pages, from the pen of our gifted Brother John D. Vincil. He reviews the Proceedings of fifty other Grand Lodges, British Columbia, however, not being among the number—not received in time.

Brother Vincil is not yet prepared to recommend the recognition of Mexican Masonry, the ground of his objection being that the *Gran Dieta* is a General Grand Lodge. To our mind this is one of the least of the objections that can be offered against it.

556 Lodges, with approximately 31,930 members.

M.W. C. H. Briggs, Grand Master.

R.W. J. D. Vincil, Grand Secretary.

MONTANA.

35th Annual Communication.

Helena.

20th September, 1899.

A handsome photogravure of Grand Master Charles W. Pomeroy forms a frontispiece to the volume of Proceedings.

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Two Special Communications were held during the year—at Helena, July 4th, 1899, to lay the corner-stone of the State Capitol, and at Butte, July 27th, 1899, to lay the corner-stone of the new M.E. Church (South).

At the Annual Communication British Columbia was represented by M.W. James H. Monteith.

The Grand Master's Address contains a feeling reference to Past Senior Warden Richard T. Kennon, who died during the year, and to the fraternal dead of other Jurisdictions. Four new Lodges were constituted during the year. In order to ascertain the condition of the various Lodges the Grand Master addressed a printed list of questions to each of them, from the answers to which we learn that the fees for the degrees range from fifty to seventy-five dollars, about one-third of the whole number of Lodges charging the latter sum. The annual dues run from three to ten dollars *per annum*. The Grand Master says:

"In twenty-six of the lodges, the Wardens confer degrees. This is an excellent practice, as it results in a larger portion of the membership becoming proficient in the ritual, and qualifies the Wardens for advancement to the office of Master. I would commend the practice to the other lodges of the jurisdiction."

And we would commend the practice to the Lodges of other Jurisdictions.

Eight decisions are recorded, as follows :

1. Though the report of the Committee is unfavorable, the ballot should be spread.
2. A lodge cannot appear in a parade on public occasions, except for the performance of some proper Masonic service.
3. On the death, prior to installation, of a Worshipful Master elected to succeed himself, the Senior Warden should act as Master during the year.
4. A petition is received by a lodge upon being read, there being no objection.
5. An Entered Apprentice is not a member of a lodge, and cannot be counted to make a quorum in an Entered Apprentice lodge.
6. It is the right of the Senior Warden to preside in the absence of the Master; and the Master of a lodge, expecting to be absent at a future meeting, should not permit the lodge to designate, by a vote, a Past Master to preside at such future meeting.

7. The corner-stone of a public edifice may be laid with Masonic ceremony, though for physical reasons the stone is placed in other than the northeast corner of the building.

8. One who has had his left leg amputated below the knee, and supplies the defect with an artificial foot, is not within the requirements of our Craft to receive the degrees.

During the absence of the Grand Master from the State, the Deputy Grand Master R.W. Anthony H. Barret was called on to rule the Craft. He made one decision, which is certainly correct, and which is as follows :

"Brother ———, Senior Deacon of Doric Lodge, No. 53, was elected Worshipful Master, the brother never having been elected and installed as a Warden in any lodge in this jurisdiction, the contention of the brother who requested a decision seemed to be that such failure acted as a bar to his advancement. I decided that his contention was untenable, and called attention to the by-law bearing upon the subject, wherein it is plainly stated that service in any recognized jurisdiction as an elected and installed Warden, confers eligibility to the Master's station."

The committee which had in hand the revision of the Grand Lodge Constitution have evidently had no sincere, but after much thought and labor have produced a Constitution which they think will be satisfactory. It was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for consideration, and upon their recommendation was adopted. It was ordered to be printed and distributed.

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved of all the Grand Master's decisions, except No. 8. We think the Grand Master's ruling was correct, but the Committee state that such questions should be determined by the Lodge without reference to the Grand Master. They announce the following as the true interpretation of the law on the subject :

"A candidate for the degree of Entered Apprentice should be able, physically as well as intellectually, to receive and impart all the essentials of Masonic recognition and this the lodge may determine."

The decision made by the Deputy Grand Master met with their approval. The following question was submitted for their consideration :

"A Master Mason is to be tried for unmasonic conduct, and has been notified to appear in person or by counsel. Can this counsel, though a Master Mason in good standing, appear for the accused if the counsel does not belong to the jurisdiction under which the brother who is to be tried belongs?"

"Answer—Yes. Any Master Mason in good standing may act."

Brother Cornelius Hedges, in his usual happy style, condenses the Proceedings of fifty-six Grand Lodges in a Report of 164 pages. He is strongly opposed to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, but would not recommend the interruption of friendly relations until Washington has had a chance to reconsider its action. Brother Hedges thinks, and we agree with him, that there has been too much precipitancy on the part of various Grand Lodges in issuing edicts of non-intercourse, and that before long Washington will see the error of its course.

He does not believe in expulsion for non-payment of dues, nor in charging dues to those under suspension.

We regret that our Proceedings did not reach Brother Hedges in time to come in for a share of his notice.

M.W. Anthony H. Barret, Grand Master.

R.W. Cornelius Hedges, Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA.

42nd Annual Communication.

Lincoln.

7th June, 1899.

The Grand Master, of whom there is an excellent portrait in the volume, read an Address of only eight pages in length. He chronicles the deaths of many eminent Brethren of other Jurisdictions, and of two well-beloved Brethren of his own, viz., M.W. Robert C. Jordan, the first Grand Master of Nevada, and of R.W. William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary, who died in harness.

Emergent Communications of Grand Lodge were held to render the last tribute of respect to both these distinguished Masons.

Dispensations were issued freely for various purposes, mainly to allow Lodges to install officers at other than the regular times, and to confer degrees out of time. Eighteen decisions are recorded, fifty-eight of these not being deemed of sufficient importance to warrant mention. We copy those we consider of interest.

1. That a member of a lodge can be installed into office notwithstanding he is in arrears for dues.

2. Installation at other than the regular time, except by dispensation, is void.

3. The Grand Master cannot grant dispensation to confer degrees upon a candidate who has not resided in the jurisdiction of the Lodge for one year.

4. That a Lodge could not be permitted to bury a suspended Mason.

6. A petition may be received and acted upon before the petitioner is twenty-one years old.

An installed officer cannot be dimitted.

9. A brother continues to hold an office into which he has been installed until his successor has been installed, even though he is elected and installed into another office.

10. A vote dimitting a brother when announced by the Master, cannot be reconsidered.

12. The Master, or in the absence of the Master, the ranking Warden, may at any time invite any competent brother to preside over the lodge; but in this case the brother presiding only acts as a proxy of the officer who called him to the East, and should that officer retire from the lodge-room or be superceded by the entrance of a ranking officer, the presiding brother's authority would at once cease.

13. A profane may act as a pall-bearer at a Masonic funeral; but in that case the pall-bearers should not be permitted in the procession between the Tiler and the Master, as the lodge on such occasions consists of all who are between these two officers, and should at all times be duly tiled.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom the decisions were referred, advise concurrence in most of them. They recommend that No. 2 be modified by changing the word "void" to the word "irregular," and add the statement that any Master of a Lodge permitting the same is subject to Masonic discipline. No. 6, they say, should be modified by changing the word "may" into "cannot," which is quite a radical modification, but which is, we think, the right view of the matter. No. 9, they say, should not be approved. It certainly does seem peculiar that an officer should be installed into an office before he has given over the one previously held. Of decision No. 3 the Grand Master himself says :

"The two classes most affected by this decision of the Grand Lodge are principals of schools and clergymen. I can see no good reason for the prohibition, and would recommend the repeal of the resolution that prohibits the Grand Master from granting a dispensation in meritorious cases."

We consider the restriction a very salutary one, and fail to see why school teachers and clergymen should be made a

privileged class. The Grand Lodge evidently thought so too, as they refused to withdraw the restriction.

The Grand Master officiated at the dedication of one Hall; constituted one Lodge, and laid one corner-stone. Three Brethren having engaged in liquor selling contrary to their regulations, he caused their Lodges to expel them. He refers several matters to Grand Lodge after mentioning them briefly. They are the Washington Memorial Services; the Grand Lodge of Peru; three cases of appeal; Negro Masonry, and the proposal to establish a General Grand Lodge. A case of invasion of jurisdiction was reported to him by the Grand Master of Kansas, which he settled after some trouble with the local Lodge by ordering that the fees for degrees be turned over to the Kansas Lodge. A Lodge in Columbus was reported to be in an unhealthy condition, and after investigating the matter in person, the Grand Master ordered the arrest of the charter. He makes the, what appears to us, very sensible suggestion that the funds of Grand Lodge be kept by the Grand Treasurer separate from other funds in his possession. For some reason which does not appear, the Committee on Jurisprudence did not approve of it. Although the Grand Lodge "turned down" the committee on this point, we do not see that any action was taken to amend the law.

The Grand Secretary having died less than a month before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, a brief report of the work of his office is submitted by the Grand Master. He recommends the adoption of a "Grand Lodge Register" and of a "Monitor" adapted to their work. He gives a statement of "Bills receivable in the Relief Fund," which we confess we do not understand.

The Trustees of the Orphans' Educational Fund admit having \$32,711.51 in their charge—all of it except \$373.90 being invested at rates ranging from six to ten *per cent*.

From the Committee on Returns we learn that the net increase in membership during the year was 173, the total membership being 11,948. They give the number of members raised, admitted and reinstated, and then say, "gained otherwise, 25." What does "otherwise" mean in this connection?

A committee was appointed at the last session of the Grand Lodge to suggest a plan whereby the memory of their first Grand Master, M.W. Brother Robert C. Jordan, might be perpetuated. They now come forward with the proposition that 1,000 bronze medals be struck off, with a bust of Brother Jordan on one side and a virgin weeping over a broken column on the other; the whole to be adorned with "a pin and purple hanger." These are to cost \$435, which the Grand Lodge is to advance, and they are to be sold for \$1 each, the proceeds, if any, after the Grand Lodge is recouped, to be handed to Brother Jordan's widow.

The following amendment to the Constitution was introduced, and according to law was laid over for one year.

"Every Mason hereinafter raised to the degree of Master Mason shall become proficient therein as required in the former degrees and give proof thereof in open lodge; which fact shall be entered on record. And until such proof is given no Master Mason shall be allowed to vote or hold office in such lodge or to dimit therefrom."

Brother Williamson S. Summers, Grand Orator, delivered his Oration on the evening of the second day of the session. It is too long to reproduce, and we have not yet grasped its subject. The two opening paragraphs will serve to convey an idea of its style.

"Intellect is the human, sentiment the divine, element in man's nature. Thought raised to the eminence of emotion grows dizzy; then confused. From the emotional nature, as from a bell, the golden tongue of inspiration sends forth its clearest sounds. From it come all impulses, all longings, all aspirations. When the divine element is evoked, the human motor, intellect, is brought to bear upon it. At times it is almost obscured. Then is the spiritual held in bondage to the mortal; then does the pendulum of divinity tick unseen by men, in the dial of eternity; then there is an age of skepticism.

"Man may be all feeling as well as all intellect. In the ceaseless cycles of the ages, he occasionally becomes the incarnation of an emotion. Then the emanations from his imagination are to him real; they become the dread picturings of an awful actuality. Then he is driven hither and thither by the servant of fanaticism, superstition. Here, then, is an overweening age of faith. Thus it has ever been—there the opinions of yesterday; here the convictions of to-day."

By resolution the Grand Lodge voted to adopt John Stevenson Bowen, the youngest child of their late Grand Secretary, as "the child of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., Nebraska," and pledged itself to attend to his future welfare and education.

The Representative of British Columbia did not attend this Communication.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is written by Brother Charles J. Phelps. He states that he was limited to thirty pages, so confines himself to a short topical review embracing some of the questions now before the Masonic world. A considerable portion of his Report is devoted to an eulogium of the late Grand Secretary, Brother W.R. Bowen. He also touches upon "Landmarks and Constitutions," Jurisdiction over Rejected Candidates; Physical Qualifications; Clandestine Negro Lodges; Mexican Masonry, and Peru.

We hope that another year Brother Phelps may be given more space, and that he will give us the benefit of his views on other subjects.

M.W. William W. Keyser, Grand Master.

R.W. Francis E. White, Grand Secretary.

NEVADA.

85th Annual Communication.

Virginia City.

13th June, 1899.

The Grand Master read an Address of twenty-six pages in length, a large proportion of the space being devoted to a consideration of the action of Washington *re* Negro Masons. He is evidently opposed to the action of that Grand Lodge; neither does he regard with favor the proposal of the Grand Master of Wyoming to form a "Supreme Lodge."

He submits a draft programme of the "Washington Memorial Observances," and recommends a small subscription towards defraying their expenses. Several official visits were made, the general condition of the Craft being satisfactory.

Of the numerous questions submitted to him, the Grand Master reports only two, which, with the answers thereto, are as follows :

"Is a dispensation necessary to enable a lodge to elect a Treasurer of the lodge to fill a vacancy in that office caused by death?"

"Answer—No. Proceed in accordance with General Regulation No. 32."

"Has the lodge a right to receive and act upon the petition of a brother who has applied for membership in the same jurisdiction and was rejected?"

"Answer—Yes. A non-affiliate has the right to apply to any lodge he may choose for membership in this jurisdiction."

He recommends that the resolution limiting the term of service of their Grand Representatives be rescinded, and suggests that they hold their appointments at the pleasure of the Grand Master. He pays a deserved compliment to the ability and fidelity of the Grand Secretary, and suggests that his services be recognized by an increase in his salary, which, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, was done.

A special committee presented a temperate report on "Negro Masonry," deploring the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington and urging it to reconsider the resolutions adopted by it with reference to this matter. Until such reconsideration, they recommend that fraternal relations be suspended.

In company with a long list of Grand Representatives, Brother Geo. Gillson, who represents British Columbia, was given a fraternal greeting by the Grand Master.

Fifty-nine Grand Lodges receive attention at the hands of Brother A.D. Bird, Committee on Foreign Correspondence, British Columbia for 1898 being among the number. Brother Bird condenses his report into something like ninety pages, and manages to quote freely from several Proceedings at that.

M.W. John M. McCormack, Grand Master.

R.W. Chauncey N. Noteware, Grand Secretary.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

32nd Annual Communication.

St. John.

22nd August, 1899.

After the formal opening of Grand Lodge, a distinguished visitor was announced, in the person of M.W. Lieut.-Col. T. Page Butler, Past Grand Master of Quebec, and Grand Representative of New Brunswick near that Grand Lodge, who was introduced and welcomed with the Grand Honors.

The Grand Master, in a carefully prepared Address, gives an interesting *resume* of his labors. In a few well-chosen sentences he remembers those members of Grand Lodge who have laid aside their working tools during the year, not forgetting Brethren of eminence in other Jurisdictions who have been called away. While prevented from making as many official visits as he wished, he visited a number of Lodges, and found most of them in a healthy and prosperous condition. He visited the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia while in session, and received a hearty welcome. He mentions the fact that they (the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia) have no Board of General Purposes, and conveys the impression that New Brunswick could very well do without one too. He is not at present ready to support the scheme of amalgamating the three Maritime Grand Lodges, but thinks that possibly an "Advisory Board" might be formed, consisting of delegates from each of the three Grand Lodges, to which might be referred such question as uniformity of the ritual, a Masonic Home and other matters. If the proposed Board is to have any legislative authority, we think a union of the Grand Lodges more advisable. If it is to be simply an "Advisory Board," we think it would be wasted effort.

An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge was held on the 25th of June, 1899, that being the Sunday nearest to the festival of St. John the Baptist. The Grand Lodge attended Divine service in a body, being accompanied by many members of the local Lodges.

At the evening session the portraits of M.W. Brothers Robert T. Church and B. Lester Peters were unveiled.

The Board of General Purposes brought in an interesting report, which was adopted with some slight amendments. They recommend that a sum of money be granted for the dissemination of the proper work throughout the Province, and also that a committee be appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Grand Lodges of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island relative to a union of the three Grand Lodges.

Efforts to change the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge met with no success.

The remaining time of Grand Lodge was taken up with business of local interest. A peculiar feature about the

Grand Lodge of New Brunswick is that Past Grand Masters cease to rank as Most Worshipful and take the rank of Right Worshipful.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Thirty-two Lodges, with 1,778 members, a gain of 11.

M.W. His Honor Judge Forbes, Grand Master.

R.W. J. Twining Hartt, Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

110th Annual Communication.

Concord.

17th May, 1899.

Facing the title page of this fine volume is a group-portrait of the elective officers of the Grand Lodge—an extremely interesting picture.

The Semi-Annual Communication for the exemplification of work was held in the City of Manchester, the several degrees being conferred upon candidates by different Lodges in a correct manner.

The Representative of British Columbia was not present, nor did he appear at the Annual—in fact, we appear to be without a Representative near New Hampshire.

The Grand Master requires but thirteen pages in which to narrate his official acts. He congratulates the Brethren that the Institution is in a flourishing condition. The Grand Lodge mourned the loss of three eminent Craftsmen, R.W. Brothers Edward Gustine and Isaac William Smith, Past District Deputy Grand Masters, and R.W. Charles A. Tufts, Past Deputy Grand Master.

A few dispensations were granted—only one to confer degrees out of time.

The Grand Master dedicated the Temple of Clinton Lodge, at Wilton, and that of Kane Lodge, at Lisbon. The former (of which a picture is given) was the gift to the Lodge of one of its former Masters, and is an elegant brick structure set in spacious grounds. He constituted one new

Lodge, and attended the Centennial celebration of Hiram Lodge. It is evident that the Brethren of New Hampshire do not object to dancing, for the exercises in connection with the dedication of the new Temple at Wilton, and of the Centennial celebration at Claremont were each brought to a conclusion with a ball.

Only two decisions are reported, which we give below.

"A brother who had taken the E.A. degree in Kane Lodge, No. 64, moved to Colebrook, and as a matter of convenience asked for and received permission from Kane Lodge to take the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees in Evening Star Lodge, No. 37, at Colebrook. For reasons not developed, Evening Star Lodge refused to confer the degrees."

"*Question.*—Can Kane Lodge, No. 64, now confer the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees notwithstanding the fact that they had given permission for Evening Star Lodge to confer them?

"*Answer.*—Kane Lodge, No. 64, can confer the degrees if they so desire."

"A lodge at a stated meeting voted to grant a dimit to a brother who had made application therefor. Before the lodge had closed it was discovered that the charter was not in the lodge-room. Some year or two after, the contention was made that the charter not being present in the lodge-room when the dimit was granted the dimit was illegal and void, and the brother was still a member of the lodge, notwithstanding the fact that his name had been dropped from the books and he had not paid dues.

"It is an old and well-understood Masonic law 'that the charter must be present at the opening,' but to hold that action of the lodge, otherwise all right, upon such a matter as granting a dimit is void unless the charter is in the lodge-room at the time, is a very narrow interpretation of the law governing this subject. The charter is the evidence of authority to assemble and work and should always be present, but if by accident it happens to be locked up in a safe in the ante-room, or at the home of the Master, to contend that all business transacted at a communication held under such circumstances is illegal would lead to complications that would be very troublesome. If there was any question as to the existence of the charter it would be a very different matter, but admitting that the lodge has a charter, the mere matter of its being in the lodge-room all the time is not in my opinion important."

The lot of land for the proposed Masonic Home has been paid for and an effort is being made to secure the necessary funds for the building. "Colored Masonry" is dealt with at some length, in a firm, though courteous manner, the

Grand Master stating that it is hopelessly clandestine and outside the pale of recognition altogether.

The District Deputy Grand Masters, of whom there are six, submit exhaustive reports on the Lodges under their charge. They found little to find fault with and much to praise.

The Committee on Returns states that there are on the roll 78 Lodges, with 9,240 members—the gain for the year being 16.

It has been felt for some time that the method of conducting trials was unsatisfactory, and a special committee appointed to investigate the matter recommended that commissioners be appointed whose duty it would be to try all cases requiring discipline. This report was adopted by the Grand Lodge, and at this Communication amendments to the Constitution were proposed authorizing the appointment of such Commissioners, defining their duties and powers, and laying down the procedure to be followed. These amendments come up for final consideration at the next Annual Communication.

A report on "Negro Masonry" was presented by the Committee on Jurisprudence. Their finding is adverse to the Grand Lodge of Washington, but they hesitate to recommend the extreme step of severing relations. Instead, they offer a resolution by which consideration of the matter was deferred until the next Annual Communication.

An exceedingly interesting and very able review of the doings of fifty-five other Grand Lodges is written by R.W. Brother A. S. Wait. He does not agree—nor do we—with the decision of the Grand Master of California that a member of a Lodge should not vote on his own application to form a new Lodge. As he says, the members not signing the petition may be as much interested in defeating it as those signing it are in its success. The rule, consequently, would work both ways.

Under District of Columbia he reproduces the findings of their Committee on Jurisprudence on the subject of perpetual jurisdiction, which are, in effect, that the doctrine is a purely American one, unknown in England or on the Continent of Europe, and existing in this country "only by

virtue of the special legislation of the American Grand Lodges." Brother Wait's idea is that the arguments of the committee are unanswerable.

He takes up the statement of Brother Drummond, of Maine, that a Grand Lodge can exist independently of constituent Lodges. Brother Wait made the statement that the Grand Lodge of Michigan was re-organized in 1841, after the passing of the anti-mason excitement, by the officers of four of the extinct Lodges, with some of the officers of the old Grand Lodge. This statement was questioned by Brother Drummond, and Brother Wait now adduces evidence to prove the correctness of his position.

He expresses our opinion when he declines (under Mississippi) to acquiesce in the doctrine that "Absconding in the face of a public charge involving moral turpitude, is the equivalent of confessing guilt." He allows that it may look like guilt, but says that it has never been allowed by the courts as proof of guilt. "In the history of criminal jurisprudence," he says, "there have been many cases where innocent men charged with crime have absconded in the face of a debauched public sentiment in order to avoid an unfair trial."

Under Washington he refers at some length to Negro Masonry, and is unable to make the language used by the Washington Committee mean anything else than the recognition of Negro Masons and Negro Lodges. He expresses the hope, however, that the authors of the report will hasten to put themselves right with the American Masonic public, and, we are sure, will rejoice that they saw the advisability of the step at their last Annual Communication.

Brother Wait is apparently "almost persuaded" that Mexican Masonry should be given recognition. He sees no objection thereto in the form of government they have adopted for themselves, and neither do we. That is a matter of expediency; the real objections to recognition are much more serious.

British Columbia receives a very friendly notice of three pages in length. For his kind mention of our personal labors we offer Brother Wait our sincere thanks.

M.W. John McLane, Grand Master.

R.W. Geo. P. Cleaves, Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY.

113th Annual Communication.

Trenton.

24th January, 1900.

Special Communications were held at Westwood, 15th March, 1899, to constitute and install the officers of Temple Lodge, No. 173, and at Trenton, 14th of June, 1899, for the purpose of providing means for the extension of the Masonic Home. This was done by levying a special tax of \$1.50 *per capita* on the membership of the Lodges.

Among the distinguished visitors present at the Annual Communication were the Grand Masters of New York and Pennsylvania, with several Past Grand Masters and other officers, all of whom received a very hearty welcome. R.W. Brother Henry S. Haines was present to represent British Columbia.

In an exceedingly interesting Address the Grand Master welcomed the members of Grand Lodge and gives an account of his stewardship. He feelingly refers to the deaths of some of their prominent Brethren, the more eminent of whom were M.W. James H. Durand, Past Grand Master and Brother Garret A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States.

Relations with other Jurisdictions have been of the most pleasant nature, any differences of opinion over the question of "jurisdiction" having been settled in the most amicable manner. The one exception to the rule is the Grand Lodge of Washington, with which New Jersey does not hold intercourse. The Grand Master regrets that the resolutions passed by that Grand Lodge last year do not repeal those of the year before, and, while believing that the Grand Lodge of Washington honestly meant to set itself right, does not consider it advisable to withdraw the edict of non-intercourse until it is "positively determined" whether or not New Jersey has "any right to review or question the admission to their Lodges of persons we have declared to be clandestine and irregular."

A long list of "Dispensations" is given, of which only two appear to have been to confer degrees at less than the regular intervals. There appears to be a fee of \$20 attached to this kind of dispensation, which, doubtless has a salutary effect in keeping down the number.

In New Jersey the physical qualifications of candidates are passed upon by the Grand Master. He had, this year, forty-four such candidates to examine, with the result that thirty-three were accepted and eleven rejected. In this connection the Grand Master calls attention to the fact that it is the duty of the Master of a Lodge to supplement the work of the Investigating Committee by making a personal examination of the candidate after he has been prepared. He further assures the Brethren that, some writers of Foreign Correspondence Reports to the contrary notwithstanding, great care is taken in the selection of their material from a moral as well as from a physical standpoint—a statement which hardly needed the Grand Master's assurance.

The decisions rendered were few and are as follows :

"Candidates shall not be initiated in English-speaking lodges unless they understand the English language.

"No brother who has dimitted from a lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington since the issuance of the edict of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey against that Grand Lodge, can affiliate with a New Jersey lodge until the edict is removed.

"A person petitioning a lodge which does not hold jurisdiction over him shall be permitted to withdraw such petition without the vote of the lodge, at any time prior to action on request for waiver having been taken by the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides, but not thereafter.

"That part of the initiation fee which accompanies the petition is a part of the funds of the lodge, and when received by the Secretary is to be paid by him to the Treasurer."

Under the heading "Discipline," the Grand Master mentions a case where the work of a Lodge was declared void because of the absence of the warrant. His ruling on this point differs from that of the Grand Master of New Hampshire, but

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

An excellent report is submitted by R.W. Thos. H. R. Redway, Grand Secretary. He chronicles the usual tardiness on the part of the Lodge Secretaries, although by dint of much letter writing and telegraphing he got all the returns in before Grand Lodge met. He places the present membership at 17,386, the gain for the year being 415.

A very interesting report comes from the Committee on Masonic Home. Urgent need for increased accommoda-

tion being felt, and the Grand Lodge having sanctioned the expenditure, an addition to the Home was contracted for at the contract price of \$20,573. It is expected that the addition will be ready for occupancy this spring.

The Grand Lodge listened with interest to an eloquent Address by Brother the Rev. Henry S. Rose, the subject of which was "Religion and Masonry."

In recognition of the able manner in which M.W. Brother Ewan had conducted the affairs of Grand Lodge during his term of office, it was ordered that he be presented with a Past Grand Master's jewel, and also that his portrait appear in the Proceedings. In accordance with the latter resolution a handsome portrait on steel of the M.W. Brother appears as a frontispiece to the volume.

Owing to various unforeseen circumstances, Brother Geo. B. Edwards, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, was this year unable to write the usual Report. M.W. Charles Belcher willingly came to his assistance, the assistance, as Brother Edwards tells us, ultimately developing into the assumption of the entire work. The review includes a notice of fifty-four Grand Lodges and is written in a very pleasant style. British Columbia is not mentioned, a fact which we much regret.

We have missed Brother Edwards this year, but are pleased to have met Brother Belcher at the round table.

M.W. Joseph E. Moore, Grand Master.

R.W. Thos. H. R. Redway, Grand Secretary.

NEW MEXICO.

22nd Annual Communication.

Albuquerque.

5th October, 1899.

An Emergent Communication was held at Albuquerque on the 3rd of September, 1899, to lay the corner-stone of Albert Temple, the Jewish Synagogue.

The Grand Master, M.W. Brother Robert C. Stewart, being unavoidably absent from the Annual Communication,

his Address was read by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Brother E. E. Day, who presided on that occasion. The Address makes a brief, but feeling reference to the Brethren who have departed during the year; mentions the dispensations granted and refused, and states the decisions rendered. These were mainly of local interest, and were all in harmony with the Masonic law of the Jurisdiction.

The Grand Master notes the fact that the Grand Lodge of Washington has repealed their objectionable resolutions of 1898, though he thinks the language used is somewhat ambiguous. He fears that the "Negro question" will present itself again before long, and urges his Grand Lodge to place itself on record as against any clandestine body, which it does, later on. He touches upon several other matters of local interest and concludes with the hope that the struggle in which the country is still engaged may soon be brought to an end.

The reports of the Grand Secretary, R.W. Alpheus A. Keen, and of the Grand Treasurer, R.W. F. H. Kent, are brief but interesting. They show a healthy growth both numerically and financially.

A special report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence deals with the matter of Mexican Masonry. The report says:

"Some years ago that Grand Body (the Gran Dieta) asked for recognition from this Grand Lodge, but no action was taken. The documents just received seem to assume that we granted recognition; they show that the Gran Dieta is much harrassed by rival Grand Lodges seeking to exercise authority over the same territory. The documents clearly show that we cannot be too cautious in giving recognition to any Grand body in Mexico. Our close proximity to Mexico renders us liable to frequent embarrassments should we make a mistake in any action we may take."

It is suggested that as the Chairman of the Committee will be in Mexico during the coming year, the matter might be laid over until the next Annual Communication, which was agreed to. In the list of Grand Representatives we notice the name of Brother Max Frost as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Mexico near that of New Mexico, which possibly gave the Grand Lodge of Mexico some excuse for believing that it had been formally recognized.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters show that the Lodges, with but one or two exceptions, are doing well. One Lodge with a membership of only fifty-nine owns property worth \$10,000, which brings in a rental of \$730 *per annum*. *All dues are paid up to January 1st, 1899*; it has several hundred dollars in the Treasury, and has spent about \$350 in charity since the date of last report.

One hundred dollars were voted by Grand Lodge to form the nucleus of a Grand Charity Fund.

The volume of Proceedings contains handsome portraits of Past Grand Masters John W. Poe and Robert C. Stewart.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is this year the work of the Chairman, Brother Max Frost, who reviews the Proceedings of fifty-one Grand Lodges in his customary happy manner—British Columbia, unfortunately, not being among the number reviewed. Brother Frost objects to the conferring of degrees out of time, believes that a Brother has no right to declare which kind of a ballot be cast, and should be disciplined if he does; does not approve of legislation against the admission of liquor sellers, and thinks that a Brother should be allowed to withdraw from Lodge membership if he wants to—and “no questions asked.” With his opinions on all these points we are heartily in accord.

New Mexico has 20 chartered Lodges, with 922 members—a gain of 41.

M.W. Elias E. Day, Grand Master.

R.W. Alpheus A. Keen, Grand Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A Special Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in Sydney on the 9th of September, 1898, being opened in Ample Form by M.W. Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, Grand Master.

Resolutions were adopted rescinding a resolution authorizing the incorporation of Grand Lodge, and instructing the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution to prepare a

clause restricting the investment of Grand Lodge funds to New South Wales Government securities.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 14th of September, 1898, the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Brother Richard Teece, presiding.

The business of the session was mainly the reception of reports. The report of the Board of General Purposes informs us that two Lodges asked for permission to go into recess for twelve months, which was granted. A petition for a new Lodge was received and the Grand Master is recommended to grant the charter.

From the reports of the Inspector of Workings and his Deputies we learn that the Craft is generally in a satisfactory condition. The Grand Inspector, however, finds that there is a lack of attention to details, and an absence of that solemnity in the conferring of the degrees which add to the impressiveness of the work. He has noted a lack of information on other points, though there has been manifested a desire for knowledge. He suggests that a Lodge of Exemplification be formed.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 14th of December, 1898, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master presiding.

The Board of General Purposes report having been asked to grant permission for another Lodge to take a twelve months' recess, which they did; a petition for a new Lodge was received and a charter recommended, and the consolidation of two Lodges at Paramatta is advised. Having been informed that the Grand Lodge of Peru had restored the Bible to its altars, the Board instructed the Grand Secretary to express the satisfaction of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales thereat. Having learned that a prominent member of Grand Lodge had participated in the installation of officers of a body known as Cambrian Lodge, which was not under the authority of the Grand Lodge, the Board called upon him to explain. He stated that until the ceremony was over he was not aware that the Lodge was not recognized by the Grand Lodge, and this explanation was accepted. A series of resolutions was adopted by the Board warning the Brethren not to countenance clandestine Lodges.

The Grand Inspector of Workings regrets that he has not noticed any improvement in the defects mentioned in his former report. He also alludes to a reprehensible practice which he has noticed in some Lodges or reserving candidates for the degree of M.M. until there are four or five to be raised on one evening. He rightly says that such a practice is to be deprecated as interfering materially with the solemnity of the degree.

A special Communication was held on the 7th of March, 1899, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master again occupying the Chair, at which the new Constitution, which had been partially considered at previous Special Communications, was finally passed.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 8th of the same month, the Deputy Grand Master presiding.

The Board of General Purposes states that the question of compiling a History of Freemasonry in New South Wales has occupied their attention, and they recommend that R.W. Brother J. B. Trivett be appointed to collect the necessary data at a cost not exceeding £25, which certainly is not excessive. A charter was recommended for one new Lodge and a Brother who appealed against the action of his Lodge in excluding him from non-payment of dues without proper notice, had his appeal allowed.

The Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, V.W. Brother Weeden, was admitted and welcomed to Grand Lodge.

After considerable discussion it was resolved that the practice of attending church services in regalia did not meet with the approval of Grand Lodge, and should be discontinued.

A Special Communication was held on the 13th of June, 1899, at which the officers for the ensuing year were nominated, and on the 14th of June, the regular Quarterly Communication was held, at which the election of officers took place.

The Board of General Purposes report having received from a body styling itself "The Grand Lodge of Western Australia," a communication asking for recognition. The

Board, however, "postponed consideration of the question *sine die*." They were asked if a Tyler, if a subscribing member of a Lodge, could vote, and if a Brother asking for a clearance could have his arrears of dues commuted, both of which questions they answered in the affirmative. They recommended the amalgamation of two Lodges, and the issuing of a charter to a new Lodge.

The Grand Inspector of Workings reports that although some carelessness is still apparent in the Lodges, there has been considerable improvement since he first mentioned the matter. He urges Worshipful Masters to be more punctual in opening their Lodges; to pay more attention to points of Masonic etiquette, and to cultivate in their Lodges a better knowledge of the titles of Grand Lodge officers.

The Grand Treasurer reports that the funds of Grand Lodges are as follows:

Fund of Benevolence	£6,273.7.11
Grand Lodge Fund	3,228.17.9
	£9,502.5.8

The Board of Benevolence report having assisted 176 applicants for relief during the year to the extent of £1,506-2.6, the number of cases relieved being 28, and the amount of relief £91.5.8 less than last year.

A Special Communication was held on the 24th of July, 1899, at which the M.W. Grand Master presided. The Pro Grand Master of Tasmania, M.W. Brother R. J. Sadler, was welcomed with Grand Lodge Honors, and British Columbia was represented by W. Brother J. F. Burns.

The Grand Lodge officers for the ensuing year were installed. The newly installed Grand Master, M.W. J. C. Remington, in a short Address, reviewed some of the history of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales. Up to this time the office of Grand Master has been "hereditary," as it were, having been conferred upon the Governor of the Colony for the time being, if a Freemason. Now, however, the line has been broken by the election of a Grand Master from the body of the Craft. The office of Pro-Grand Master has been abolished. The Benevolent Fund amounts to £6,200, and disburses every year between £1,100 and £1,200; the Grand

Lodge Fund amounts to over £3,200; the Freemasons' Orphan Society supports seventeen children and has funds amounting to £22,000, and the Freemasons' Benevolent Institution has now twenty-eight annuitants, and has invested over £5,000. They also maintain a Masonic Scholarship at the University, and a Cottage Hospital.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the work of a committee of five, of which R.W. Brother John B. Trivett is Chairman. They review the Proceedings of fifty-two Grand Lodges of America, Great Britain and Australia, including British Columbia for 1898.

The Committee notes the fact that of the dispensations granted by M.W. Brother McLaren, several were to "confer degrees out of time," and hopes that such permission is seldom necessary. They think that only "very exceptional circumstances" can justify haste in these matters. M.W. Brother McLaren's experience of being subjected to examination before visiting one of the Lodges is referred to as something unique. Our District Deputy Grand Masters are commended for their zeal, and V.W. Brother Logan for his admirable sermon. We are complimented by the reproduction of our views on the Mexican question.

The Committee believe that clergymen should pay the same initiation fee as anyone else, and deprecate legislation against liquor sellers, believing that the matter is better left to the discretion of the Lodges.

New South Wales is the only Australasian Grand Lodge which prints a Report on Foreign Correspondence, and the Committee have reason to be proud of their work.

187 Lodges, with 7,164 members.

M.W. John C. Remington, Grand Master.

R.W. Arthur H. Bray, Grand Secretary.

Since the above was written we have been favored with a pamphlet containing the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge at a Special Communication held on the 1st of February, 1900. The Communication was called to consider the report of the Board of General Purposes in reference to the

new "Grand Lodge of Western Australia." As this is a matter of some importance we reproduce the report of the Board and the remarks of the Grand Master *in extenso*, merely stating that in our opinion the Grand Lodge of New South Wales took the only correct course in dealing with the matter. The report is as follows:

"The matter of the establishment of a Grand Lodge for Western Australia has been mentioned in several previous reports of the Board, but, in the absence of complete information, no definite action was taken. We have now, however, received all the information available, and the matter has become one of urgency, inasmuch as our Grand Master has received a courteous and pressing invitation to install His Excellency Sir Gerard Smith as Grand Master of a newly-formed Grand Lodge of Western Australia, which body the Grand Lodge of New South Wales has been asked to fraternally recognize as a Sovereign Grand Lodge.

"As our M.W. Grand Master refrained from finally accepting the invitation until the matter had been dealt with by this Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes was summoned on 24th January to discuss the application, and the members of Grand Lodge are called together this evening to consider the report of the Board.

"The information at hand reveals a state of things in the Masonic world of Western Australia which will be a subject for regret to every member of the Craft, but we trust that the brethren of that colony, guided by the Great Architect of the Universe, and assisted by the principles of unity and brotherly love, may soon devise a means by which the true tenets of our order may be vindicated."

The position may be briefly summarized as follows:—

On December 6th, 1898, a number of brethren met together in Perth, and resolved to form a "Grand Lodge of Western Australia." There were no lodges represented at that meeting, simply a number of unattached brethren, who, to use their own words, were "owing no allegiance to any Grand Lodge having authority here (i.e., Western Australia,) and were therefore free to hold meetings and to constitute a Grand Lodge." Upon this ground—the presumed right of a number of unattached Masons to meet and constitute a Grand Lodge—they claim recognition as the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Western Australia.

We are not informed as to the precise number of brethren present at the formation of this body, but, at the installation of the second Grand Master (the first having ruled for only twenty days) there were only seven Past Masters present, and there were not enough members to fill all the offices in Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge formed by brethren under the E. C.

On February 1st, 1899, the District Grand Secretary, E.C., issued a circular to the lodges under that Constitution, calling attention to certain clauses in the Book of Constitutions bearing upon the subject,

and stating that the District Grand Master would be prepared to issue dispensations to lodges to enable the members to discuss the advisability of forming a Grand Lodge.

On October 11th, the District Grand Lodge met, and the result of the discussion in the lodges was announced as follows: Lodges under the E.C., 34; of these 33 had decided in favor of the establishment of a Grand Lodge, and the remaining lodge was understood to be opposed to the proposal. The number of lodges under the S.C. was reported as 24, and those under the I.C. as two.

At this meeting the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was declared to be formed, and His Excellency Sir Gerard Smith, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Colony, was elected Grand Master. We have received an application for recognition from this Grand Lodge, and our M.W. Grand Master has been invited to perform the installation ceremony.

The Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonry in Western Australia.

On October 26th, 1899, a letter was written to us by the District Grand Secretary, S.C., stating that the lodges under that Constitution had been prohibited from taking any part in the movement for the establishment of a Grand Lodge. This letter gives the number of lodges as follows:—

E. C. (and dissenting).....	33
S. C.	28
I. C.	2

On December 28th, 1899, the District Grand Lodge, S.C., held a meeting, and it was then announced that R.W. Bro. the Rev. G. E. Rowe had received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland his patent of office as Pro-Grand Master of Western Australia. The District Grand Lodge, S.C., was thereupon proclaimed to be the "Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonry in Western Australia," and Grand Lodge officers were appointed.

This body has not asked us for recognition as a Sovereign Grand Lodge, but it has (as also has the body formed on December 8th, 1898,) written to protest against the recognition by us of the Grand Lodge formed on October 11th.

After having carefully considered the whole of the facts disclosed by the voluminous correspondence, having been materially assisted by the personal explanations of R. Wor. Bro. the Hon. J. W. Hackett (who, being in Sydney, kindly accepted my invitation to be present at the special meeting of the Board), and having given due consideration to the protests received, the Board decided to make the following recommendations to this Grand Lodge:—

1. The body formed of unattached Masons.

Authorities differ as to the legal and constitutional methods of establishing a Grand Lodge. Some—Mackay among them—lay it down as a rule that any number of lodges, not less than three, can, in any territory not occupied by a Sovereign Grand Lodge, meet in convention, and form themselves into a Grand Lodge. Other authorities

fix the minimum number of lodges necessary as five; some affirm that it is necessary to obtain the co-operation of a majority of lodges in such territory; while our Scottish brethren in Western Australia, by what authority is uncertain, claim that it is necessary to have the consent of a majority of the lodges "under each Constitution."

It is not necessary in the present instance to enter into a controversy upon the correctness of these rival theories. There is one important point upon which they all agree. They agree that a number of Warranted Lodges are necessary for the establishment of a Grand Lodge, and, therefore, that "a number of brethren, owning no allegiance to any lodge within the territory" are *not* in a position to form a lawfully constituted Grand Lodge.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board respectfully recommend this Grand Lodge to decline to recognize as a lawfully constituted Grand Lodge, the body formed on December 8th, 1898.

2. Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonry in Western Australia, Established December 28th, 1899.

The Board is of opinion that this body, having derived its existence from, and being still subordinate to, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, cannot be regarded as a Sovereign Grand Lodge; but as a Provincial body owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and having jurisdiction over the lodges formed under the Scottish Constitution in that colony. This opinion the Board recommend for the endorsement of this Grand Lodge.

3. The Grand Lodge Established on October 11th, 1899.

The brethren protesting against the recognition of this body advanced two arguments as reasons why we should refuse the recognition asked for. Our Scottish brethren claim that a condition precedent to the establishment of a Grand Lodge is the consent of a majority of lodges under each Constitution. This is a new condition, and if admitted as necessary, would question the validity of some of our oldest and most esteemed Grand Lodges. This contention, coming, as it does, from the Rulers of Scottish Freemasonry, loses its force when we remember that our Scottish brethren in Western Australia were prohibited from taking any part in the movement.

Another argument used by the protestants is based upon the fact that subsequent to the formation of the Grand Lodge on October 11th, the Grand Master appeared at a public function, with his officers, as the District Grand Lodge, E.C.

This apparent contradiction of the deliberate action of October 11th, appears to have been the result of excessive modesty upon the part of those brethren, who, pending installation and investiture, refrained from assuming the titles of their more exalted rank.

It appears that the proceedings leading up to the establishment of this Grand Lodge were careful and regular, and that a majority of the lawfully warranted lodges in the colony took part in its formation, while most of the remaining lodges were prohibited from taking part.

The Board therefore recommend that this Grand Lodge do grant its fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge formed on October 11th, 1899, as a sister Grand Lodge, and that the hearty congratulations of this Grand Lodge be forthwith conveyed to His Excellency Sir Gerard Smith upon his election as Grand Master of Western Australia.

THOS. E. SPENCER, P.D.G.M.,

President Board of General Purposes.

The President of the Board moved: "That the Report as read be adopted, printed and circulated."

The Junior Grand Warden seconded the motion, which was then put by the Grand Master, and carried on the voices.

The Grand Master then spoke as follows :

Brethren,—The motion having been carried, I may now say that, having made a careful study of the whole of the history of this movement in Western Australia, I was so confident that the decision of our Grand Lodge to-night would be what it has been, that I had no hesitation in telegraphing long ago to His Excellency the Governor of that Colony, as Grand Master-elect, that it would give me the greatest pleasure if it were found possible for me to go over and install him. I was careful, however, to make it clear that my visit would be contingent upon our Grand Lodge recognizing the newly-formed one. Of course, as Grand Master, I could have taken action by going over and acting as Installing Master, thereby practically granting recognition to the new Grand Lodge—and I need scarcely remind you that this was done upon two former occasions in Australia, where our Grand Master visited other Colonies upon the formation of Grand Lodges, and where recognition was not officially confirmed by this Grand Lodge until some time afterwards. I did not, however, feel it consistent with my duty to take such a step, although had it appeared to me absolutely necessary for the welfare of Freemasonry, and if I had seen it to be my clear and plain duty, I would most certainly have accepted the responsibility and relied upon this Grand Lodge to endorse my action, as they had done that of my predecessor, Lord Carrington. Unfortunately, I now find to my great regret that it is perfectly impossible for me to leave Sydney until May next, and as I understand His Excellency leaves for England in March, I shall not have the honor of installing him, to which I had looked forward with very great pleasure. I may explain, perhaps, that had I gone it would have been necessary for me to leave Sydney by the Himalaya on the 10th instant, and I could not, therefore, have returned before the 8th or 10th March at the earliest—that is to say only four or six days before our next Quarterly Communication, from which, under existing circumstances in this territory, I could not possibly be absent. Furthermore, those by whose wishes I was bound to be guided in the matter, pointed out the risk of being quarantined either on the outward or homeward journey; and the consequence has been the postponement of my trip for the present.

You have, to-night, by adopting the report of the Board of General Purposes, sounded the key-note for the unity of Freemasons in West-

ern Australia. and what you have done will produce an effect not only there but in the other territories of Australasia, and in Grand Lodges throughout the world. I say your action will tend to produce union, neither ignoring nor overlooking the fact that there are a great many brethren in Western Australia who, doubtless conscientiously, are opposed to the formation of the new Grand Lodge. With regard to the first attempt of the sort, the Board, I think, very properly, dismissed the claim for recognition. If we once admitted the doctrine attempted to be set up, that Grand Lodges could be formed by a few brethren only, Masonic anarchy would be the result. With our Scottish brethren I sympathize to a very great extent, and I have written to R.W. Bro. the Rev. G. E. Rowe in kindly terms, and urged him as strongly as I felt at liberty to do, to take every action in his power to secure absolute Masonic unity. I think it possible—although at this distance we must not allow ourselves to judge either side—that if there had been a little oil thrown on the troubled waters at the beginning, some of the objections which have been raised would have been removed. It must be obvious that our Scottish brethren were not placed in an exactly fair position. In fact it was similar to that which some of us occupied many years ago under the English Constitution in this Colony. It will be within the recollection of many of you that when we then attempted to discuss the question of union we were threatened with all sorts of pains and penalties, and if it had not been for the unselfish abnegation of office by our then District Grand Master, the late R. W. Bro. John Williams, we would never have been able to approach the formation of our United Grand Lodge; for in those days, as many of you will remember, the District Grand Master's word was unquestionable law. The Grand Master of Scotland, taking into consideration only what has been presented to him regarding this matter, has doubtless replied, as the Grand Master of England did to the District Grand Master here in former days, "This Grand Lodge will continue its support to you so long as you continue to desire it." I do not think so little of the Grand Lodge of Scotland as to imagine that its existence or importance is imperilled in any way by the continuance or withdrawal of a few daughter lodges in Western Australia. I do not for one moment believe that if it were proved to be for the interests of Peace, Love, and Harmony, that the Scottish lodges should join the newly-formed Grand Lodge, the slightest difficulty would be raised in Scotland. But in saying this I must remind you in the strongest possible terms that there is no necessity for Masonic lodges to ask permission to form themselves into a Grand Lodge in any territory not already so occupied. No other Grand Lodge can either give or refuse permission for the formation of a new Grand Lodge. We asserted that very plainly in the case of our own. We neither asked nor waited for permission in 1888, but as representatives of a vast majority of the lodges in the territory, we met, and declared our Grand Lodge formed, elected our first Grand Master, and the very next day demanded, and in due course received, recognition from nearly all the Grand Lodges in the world.

You have, by your action to-night, put new heart into these brethren in Western Australia, who, as we have learnt from the Report, seemed almost frightened at their own action,

and hesitated to assume their new title, erring doubtless in what we may regard as humble deference to the Grand Lodge from which they had taken their origin. But when the news flashes across the wire that this, the largest and most powerful Grand Lodge in Australasia, the Grand Lodge of the Mother Colony, has accorded recognition to its youngest sister in the far west, believe me there will be renewed life in the movement for complete Masonic Union, such as the brethren there at present scarcely dare to hope for. Before R.W. Bro. Hackett left here for Western Australia, I had the pleasure of telling him that the Board of General Purposes had decided to recommend recognition, and so sent him away with an uplifted heart. When he gets back to Western Australia and tells the brethren there, not only of our decision, but of what he has seen here as the result of Masonic Union, and what he has learned of the steps which led up to it, I believe much of the misunderstanding that at present exists will be removed. We know from his own lips that he is personally prepared to make almost any sacrifice which will conduce to absolute Unity, and although that may not take place at present, I do not believe it will be very long delayed. I am sure that eventually the brethren of the Scottish and Irish Constitutions will follow the example set in New South Wales by those of the English and Scottish Constitutions, which in 1888 united with their brethren formerly of the Irish Constitution, who eleven years before had formed a Grand Lodge; the result being the establishment of our United Grand Lodge, to the great and lasting benefit of Freemasonry in this part of the world. I congratulate you upon the decision at which you have arrived, which I will at once convey by wire to His Excellency, Sir Gerard Smith, as Grand Master-elect of Western Australia; and I can only again express my regret that the matters to which I have already referred will prevent me from personally representing you on the occasion of his installation.

NEW YORK.

118th Annual Communication.

New York.

6th June, 1899.

It is with considerable trepidation that we take up this magnificent volume of over 600 pages, filled as it is with good things and enriched with portraits of R.W. Brothers W. J. McDonald and Geo. Hayes, Past Grand Treasurers, and of W. Brother Adna A. Treat, of Denver, Colorado, probably the oldest Mason on the continent, having been born in 1797.

The Address of the Grand Master, M.W. William A. Sutherland, is in every way the equal of any from his pen.

He briefly recapitulates the financial standing of Grand Lodge, showing that all their undertakings are on a satisfactory basis. He returns thanks for the favors showered on them by the Almighty, and pauses to mention in fraternal language those of his own and other Jurisdictions who have had to lay down their working tools since Grand Lodge last met. He was obliged to exercise his authority twice during the year, once in the case of a Master of a Lodge, who was guilty of arbitrary and unconstitutional conduct, and once in the case of a Lodge which invaded the Jurisdiction of New Jersey.

Three new Lodges were started under dispensation; one new Grand Lodge and three resuscitated Grand Lodges are welcomed, and one is congratulated upon its return to the Grand Representative system. The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington naturally calls for notice, and the Grand Master explains his position in the matter, saying that as they cannot know what action the Grand Lodge of Washington will take at its next session (June, 1899), it would appear advisable to confine themselves to an urgent appeal to that Grand Lodge to reconsider its action. He suggests that the incoming Grand Master be authorized to deal with the question in such manner as will uphold the dignity of the Grand Lodge of New York. In this connection, too, the Grand Master gives his views upon the Grand Representative system, which he considers a most valuable one, and one which is capable of increased usefulness.

Among his official visits the Grand Master attended a meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 326, G.R.C., at Toronto, where nine of the ten living Past Grand Masters of Canada were present. Judging from his account of the incident, it must have been a most pleasing function, as indeed a letter we have received from W. Brother Alex. Stewart, Master of Zetland Lodge, assures us it was.

The Home at Utica again calls forth the Grand Master's warmest praises, and the services of its able Superintendent, M.W. Brother Jesse B. Anthony and of his excellent wife receive the acknowledgment which they so justly deserve. The Grand Master reminds the Brethren that however capable a Superintendent may be, he cannot successfully conduct such an institution unless he is supplied with the sinews

of war. The limit of accommodation, too, has been reached, and the Grand Master urges that steps be taken to enlarge the usefulness of the Home. He deprecates any attempt to turn the Institution into a "business proposition," and while he brings forward no particular plan, he reminds the Brethren of the great opportunity the Home affords for the exhibition of true Masonic principles.

The reports connected with the Home at Utica naturally occupy a considerable portion of the Proceedings. The net receipts of the Home were \$61,936.97, and the expenditures \$64,603.18. Computed on a population of 230 the *per capita* cost for the year was \$196.05. The Reserve Fund amounts to \$198,605.38, bearing interest at rates varying from two to five *per cent*. The limit of accommodation (250 inmates) has now been reached, and the Trustees urge Grand Lodge to make some provision for more accommodation. They pay a deserved tribute to the ability and worth of M.W. Brother Jesse B. Anthony and his wife, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent respectively of the Home.

The Library has been increased by the addition of 519 bound volumes, and continues to be well patronized. The Committee on Antiquities has had the collection in their charge re-arranged and re-catalogued.

The Historian of Grand Lodge, R.W. Peter Ross, presented a report embodying the results of his labors in collecting information concerning the history of the Institution in the State. Unfortunately, a seeming lack of interest on the part of some of the Lodges renders this important work less easy than it should be. However, what has already been accomplished shows the value the work will have when completed. He appends a list of Brethren (so far as known) who served in the Civil War, and a special committee is collecting information concerning the Brethren who served in the war with Spain. One thousand members of the Craft in New York enlisted in the latter war, and their Masonic history will be carefully preserved. All this information is bound to be of surpassing interest in the future.

It may well be said of the Brethren of New York that
 "No pent-up Utica confines their powers."

The Board of Relief report having expended \$1,719 in charity and \$18,000 for the purchase of a "Shelter Home."

It is intended that this home will do away to a considerable extent with the necessity for giving money to applicants for relief. It will

"include a dormitory for the temporary lodging of worthy applicants and for the lodging of convalescents for such time as their respective conditions demand, the attendance of physicians when necessary, a supply of food, in manner to be hereafter determined, a labor exchange, a place for more frequent meetings of our charity committees."

The Grand Officers were authorized to take such steps as they might consider proper to "demonstrate to the nation at large" the pride they feel in the achievements of Admiral Dewey, which we consider to be rather outside the scope of Masonry. The same course was pursued with a proposition to celebrate the close of the Nineteenth century.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented a special report dealing with the questions of Negro Masonry and the Grand Lodge of Peru. As to the former, they reaffirm the position taken by Grand Master Sutherland, which is already sufficiently well-known. They submit a series of resolutions (which were adopted), protesting against the course adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington, and calling upon that Grand Lodge to re-consider its action.

The excellent Report on Foreign Correspondence is the joint production of M.W. Brother Jesse B. Anthony and W. Brother Emil Frenkel—the latter providing a synopsis of the doings of the non-English-speaking Grand Lodges. The English-speaking Grand Lodges reviewed number sixty, including British Columbia for 1898, which is accorded a most courteous notice. Brother Anthony differs from M.W. Brother McLaren on the question of residence, holding that a candidate's residence is where his family resides. V.W. Brother Logan's sermon receives favorable mention.

Under Quebec, Brother Anthony, referring to the conferring of degrees by the Wardens, says :

"We hold that in the absence of the Master the Senior Warden assumes the chair and its duties, and there is no reason when competent why he should not go ahead."

A considerable amount of space on Brother Anthony's report is taken up with the "Negro question," but as we have already given his views on the matter there is no need to recapitulate them. He also presents a short account of

"Grand Lodge History in New York," giving some interesting information concerning the Craft in that State.

Number of Lodges, 745; Master Masons, 98,180.

M.W. Wright D. Pownall, Grand Master.

R.W. E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK.

119th Annual Communication.

New York.

1st May, 1900.

From the fact that the Grand Lodge of New York has changed the date of its Annual Communication from June to May, we are enabled to give a review of its Proceedings in the current Report.

As usual it contains a couple of exquisite steel-engraved portraits—this year the portraits of M.W. Wright D. Pownall and Robert R. Livingston being given. There is also a picture of the splendid monument, *simplex munditiis*, erected by the Craft over the grave of Past Grand Master, M.W. John L. Lewis.

As on many former occasions—and, we trust, for many years to come—British Columbia was represented by W. Brother Thos. Bell.

The admirable Address of the Grand Master is pervaded throughout with a dominant note of thankfulness and praise to the Supreme Architect. He summarizes the work of the year as follows: The Lodges upon the roll, on the 1st of January, 1900, numbered 748, with an active membership of 101,548. The Grand Treasurer's expenditures for the eleven months to the 15th of April, 1900, were \$75,832.77, the unexpended balance being \$51,021.01. The Permanent Fund was increased during the same time by \$12,728.21, and now amounts to \$90,314.40. In the Home at Utica were maintained 247 inmates, the cost of maintenance being \$42,052.56. The Reserve Fund is now \$205,076.05. Many improvements have been made to the Home, the principal being a new dining-hall extension. The value of the Hall and ground is placed at \$1,500,000.00, and the total assets of Grand Lodge figure up the enormous sum of \$2,247,827.53.

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Fraternal mention is made of several distinguished Brethren who have laid down their earthly working tools during the year; several social functions were attended, among them being a visit to the M. W. Grand Lodge of New Jersey; two Lodges were granted dispensations—many similar applications being refused because the Grand Master believed that there were already nearly enough Lodges in the State.

During the year a Brother who had been expelled from the Institution brought an action in the Courts of the State seeking to compel the Grand Lodge to reinstate him. The text of the judgment of the learned judge who heard the case is given in full. It decides that a member of the Craft is subject to its regulations and laws, and that the civil Courts have no jurisdiction in the matter.

The Grand Master is not satisfied with the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington as regards negro Masons. We confess that we do not see that it lies with any Grand Lodge which recognizes the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, with its women Masons and Bible-less altars, to find much fault with Washington.

The question of jurisdiction gave rise to a very interesting correspondence between the Grand Masters of New York and Pennsylvania. It appears that in 1897 a resident of New York State petitioned one of their Lodges and was rejected. Some time afterwards he removed to Pennsylvania and applied to one of the Lodges there. Application was made through the Grand Master for a waiver of jurisdiction, to which the Grand Master of New York made answer that twelve months having elapsed since the applicant left the State, no Lodge in New York had jurisdiction over him. The Grand Master of Pennsylvania met this with the statement that, having been rejected by a New York Lodge, no Lodge in Pennsylvania could use the material until a waiver of jurisdiction had been obtained from the Lodge which rejected it, and asked the Grand Master of New York to get such a waiver. The Grand Master of New York told the Grand Master of Pennsylvania that the Grand Lodge of New York was superior to any of its subordinates, and that having been assured that New York had no claim on the material, Pennsylvania ought to be content. As a result the applicant is like Mahomet's coffin.

The Grand Master announced that he had received information of the great fire at Ottawa and Hull and suggested that \$2,000.00 be appropriated for the relief of the sufferers. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee, which immediately reported in favor of the grant being made. A draft for the amount was at once forwarded to the Grand Master of Canada, who acknowledged the munificent liberality of our New York Brethren in fitting terms.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, as usual from the able pen of our esteemed M. W. Brother Jesse B. Anthony, is a valuable contribution to the Masonic literature of the year. He is inclined to believe that the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in 1899 was *bona fides*, and should be accepted as a reversal of that of 1898.

British Columbia for 1899 receives due notice. With our conclusions on the subject of negro Masonry Brother Anthony does not agree, and he leaves the matter for our "further consideration." After further reflection we have nothing to alter in the opinion we expressed last year.

M.W. Chas. W. Mead, Grand Master.

R.W. E. M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary.

NEW ZEALAND.

Annual Communication.

Hokitika.

24th April, 1899.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother Richard John Seden, presided.

The Board of Benevolence reported having made grants during the year amounting to £95 6s. 0d.

The Board of General Purposes report balances in the various funds as under:

General Fund.....	£ 720. 1. 1
Benevolent Fund	1755. 17. 4
Masonic Widows' and Orphans' fund..	608. 7. 0
Aged and Indigent Mason's fund.....	209. 9. 0
Total.....	£3293. 14. 5

They announce that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales has graciously consented to act as Patron of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. Recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has been accorded by the Grand Lodges of Ireland and of Hamburg. In consideration of valuable services the Board recommend that the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master be conferred on R.W. Brothers Lord Onslow and Sir John Gorst, and the rank of Past Grand Warden on W. Brother Dr. Lennox Brown.

M. W. Brother Richard John Sedden was re-elected Grand Master, and with the other Grand Officers, was installed with imposing ceremonies.

Semi-Annual Communication.

Dunedin.

31st October, 1899.

The Board of Benevolence reported having made grants to the amount of £37 15s. 0d.

The death of R. W. Brother Miles Reginald Bree, Deputy Grand Master, was announced, the Grand Master appointing R. W. Brother J. A. Kirby to the vacant office.

The Board of General Purposes made the following recommendations:

(1) That the title "Grand Superintendent" be changed to "District Grand Master."

(2) That a uniform ritual be formulated and adopted.

(3) That all Grand officers (with the exception of the Deputy Grand Master, District Grand Masters and Grand Secretary), be elected.

(4) That a permanent place of meeting is not advisable.

After considerable discussion, the first three were laid over until the Annual Communication, the fourth being adopted.

An illuminated Address was presented to the Grand Master on behalf of the Lodges of Southland.

M. W. Richard John Sedden, Grand Master.

R. W. William Ronaldson, Grand Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA.

113th Annual Communication.

Raleigh.

9th January, 1900.

Brother H. J. Clark was present to represent British Columbia.

The Grand Master begins his Address by congratulating the Craft upon the progress made during the year.

"New Lodges have been established, dormant ones resuscitated, several new halls have been built, old ones refurnished, two magnificent temples erected, many new members added, and a laudable ambition has been manifested on the part of the lodges to procure and conform to the demands of the authorized work of the Grand Lodge."

He does not quite understand what is meant by "exclusion," and we confess that we are unable to give him any light on the subject. As the matter is one on which we would like a little enlightenment, we quote the following paragraph from the Grand Master's Address in hope that someone will rise and explain:

"I would ask that the status of brethren excluded for non-payment of dues be defined—how they are to be excluded, and how they are to be reinstated. I have been asked several times 'what must we do with a brother who will not pay his dues and pays no attention to a legal summons to appear and show cause why he should not be *excluded* for non-payment of dues.' I have told them in every instance, where a brother pays no attention to a legal summons, to prefer charges against him for disobeying a legal summons and suspend or expel him. I must confess that I do not exactly understand the term, 'Excluded for non-payment of dues,' nor do I know how to exclude him. What is he—a non-affiliate, a suspended or an expelled Mason?"

The Grand Master decided that to confer the E. A. or F. C. degree, a Lodge must be first opened on the Master Mason degree and worked down. Candidates *minus* a hand or a foot were declared ineligible. He decided that no more than two ballots could be taken on an application, and that no officer had a right to say how many black balls were cast. Neither can a Lodge ballot on a petition for initiation until the committee of investigation has reported.

Nine Special Communications were held during the year—one to consider special business; two to dedicate Halls; one to attend the funeral of Past Grand Master Robert Brank Vance, and five to lay corner-stones. The last was "to lay the corner-stone and also dedicate the Masonic Temple."

How the corner-stone of a Temple so near completion as to require dedicating could be laid is not quite apparent.

A number of dispensations were granted, of which three were for the conferring of degrees out of time. The Grand Master is opposed to dispensations for this purpose unless great urgency be shown. Certainly, in the cases he mentions there appears to be no good reason for setting aside the law.

The Grand Master attended the Washington Memorial services, and, with his officers, was much admired. We know this to be so, because he says so.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother John C. Drewry, in his interesting report, states that he is getting the Lodge Secretaries to be more prompt in making returns. He places the number of Lodges in the State at 311 and the membership at 11,360, which is a gain of 406 over last year.

An exceedingly able and interesting Oration, entitled "The True Purpose of Masonic Life," was delivered by Brother E. W. Pou.

According to the Board of Directors, the Oxford Orphan Asylum is being carried on in a most satisfactory manner. The new cottages have been completed, and 211 children now receive the benefit of the Home, and are taught various useful trades and employments which cannot fail to be of great benefit to them in after life.

The Committee on Jurisprudence attempt an elucidation of the term "excluded," but do not seem very clear about it themselves. They introduce a new term "dismembered," as the equivalent of "excluded." Dismemberment seems a very harsh measure for so trifling an offence, and in ancient times was reserved for the lowest and most notorious criminals. We fancy that most people would rather be suspended or even expelled than "dismembered," but *chacun a son gout*.

The following amendment to the By-laws was adopted:

"An installed officer cannot resign his office."

Portraits of Past Grand Masters Robert B. Vance and R. J. Noble accompany the Proceedings, the latter forming the frontispiece of the volume.

A very fine Report on Foreign Correspondence from the facile pen of Brother John C. Collins gives a review of the doings of fifty-three other Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1899. Long extracts are made from M. W. Brother Wilson's Address, particularly his remarks on the subject of "Dispensations," and "Visiting."

Brother Collins is kind enough to copy, with expressions of approval, M. W. Brother Wilson's remarks relative to the work of this Committee, and we appreciate his courtesy.

M. W. B. S. Royster, Grand Master.

R. W. John C. Drewry, Grand Secretary.

NORTH DAKOTA.

10th Annual Communication.

Fargo.

20th June, 1899.

The volume containing the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge brings us the portraits of M. W. George H. Keyes, Grand Master 1898; of R. W. Frank A. Briggs, Grand Treasurer 1891, and of R. W. Thos. J. Wilder (Grand Secretary 1890-1892) and his wife. Brothers Briggs and Wilder are two eminent Brethren for whom North Dakota mourns this year. There is also a picture of the new Masonic Temple at Fargo, and of the building used by a military Lodge at Manila working under a dispensation from the Grand Master of North Dakota.

The Grand Master's decisions relate to local matters, and were, in the main, approved by the Grand Lodge. He looked favorably upon the proposition to take part in the Washington Memorial services, but the special committee to which the matter was referred had doubts as to the success of the movement, and on their advice, the Grand Lodge decided not to participate. The Grand Lodge of North Dakota is, so far as we have observed, the only Grand Lodge in the United States which will not be represented.

The Grand Master laid the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple at Fargo and of the "State Industrial School

and School for Manual Training" at Ellendale, issued a number of dispensations to confer degrees out of time; constituted two Lodges and started five under dispensation.

The Grand Lecturer reports that the present method of disseminating the work has not proved a success, and recommends that some plan be adopted whereby each Lodge shall receive the benefit of at least one day's instruction.

A novel feature in the way of entertaining Grand Lodge is seen in the following:

"W. Bro. Walter J. Lorshbough (1), Worshipful Master of Shiloh Lodge (1), Fargo, announced that the Masonic bodies of this city extended an invitation to the Grand Lodge to attend a theatre party at the Opera House, the play to be 'Fedora,' by Sardou."

The remainder of the business transacted was of local interest.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Fifty-five Lodges; 3,169 Master Masons.

M. W. John A. Percival, Grand Master.

R. W. Frank J. Thompson, Grand Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA.

34th Annual Communication.

Annapolis.

14th June, 1900.

An Emergent Communication was held at Stellarton on the 3rd of February, 1899, for the purpose of attending the funeral of the late M. W. Brother Lewis Johnstone, Past Grand Master.

At the Annual Communication British Columbia was unrepresented.

Immediately after the opening ceremonies, the Grand Lodge was formed in procession, and with a brass band in the lead, marched to St. Luke's church, where the Brethren listened to an instructive and interesting sermon by Brother the Rev. Henry How, the text being 1 Kings, vii, 45.

From the Address of the Grand Master we copy the following interesting item:

"This locality is connected not merely with the first history of organized government in North America, but with "the first glimmerings of Masonry" on this continent as well.

"Nearly three hundred years ago some ancient brother deposited upon the shore of Goat Island, at a spot probably visible from this building, a stone, bearing deeply indented on its face the Masonic emblems—the Square and Compass—with the date in figures 1606.

"This unique souvenir from that long buried past was discovered after it had lain for over two centuries buried in the sand. In 1827 it was brought to Annapolis and became the property of the late Judge Haliburton. Its eventful history since then I cannot now pause to recount, but that it links the Masonic history of this community with that distant era is a matter of profound interest to us.

"In the proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for 1891 a valuable historical paper by R. W. Sereno D. Nickerson, G.S., of that jurisdiction, is published dealing with this matter.

"One hundred and sixty years ago this very town of Annapolis Royal was represented before the Masonic authorities in Boston asking for a warrant to open a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons here, and from Annapolis Royal in 1750 was issued the first charter for a lodge of Masons in Halifax. The library of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts contains an ancient volume—worth its weight in gold—published in 1786. It is entitled 'A Record of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.' It contains an account of the rise and progress of Freemasonry in Nova Scotia from the first settlement to that date. It informs us that in 1750 a number of the brethren residing in Halifax met with Governor Cornwallis almost as soon as there were any houses erected there and petitioned Erasmus James Phillips, of Annapolis Royal, Provincial Grand Master, for a warrant to hold a lodge in Halifax. The warrant was received by them in July, 1750, and Governor Cornwallis as long as he resided in Nova Scotia was Master of this lodge."

The Craft of Nova Scotia sustained another severe loss in the death of R. W. Brother Edmund T. Mahon, Past Deputy Grand Master, who was one of the most zealous Masons in the Province. His remains were conveyed to Connecticut to be interred beside those of his wife, the funeral ceremony being performed by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, a kind and fraternal act for which the Grand Lodge expresses the most lively feeling of gratitude. A long list of less prominent members of Grand Lodge who have "crossed the river" during the year is given by the Grand Master.

The Grand Master refers to a proposed amendment to the Constitution, the object of which is to reduce to a minimum the evil of non-affiliation; congratulates Grand Lodge

upon the improved state of their finances; suggests improvements in the Library and reading room; commends the District Deputy Grand Masters and the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and states that he is pleased to be able to report that friendly relations with Peru have been resumed.

A large number of dispensations were granted—many, we regret to note, for the purpose of enabling degrees to be conferred out of time. Doubtless they were justified by Nova Scotia law, as the committee on the Grand Master's Address does not comment on them, but the reasons given do not, in our opinion, warrant the shortening of the time. The Grand Master made a number of official visits, though he was not able to do as much in that direction as he intended. Those made, however, were productive of much pleasure to the Grand Master, and no doubt of much profit to the Craft. The only decision reported refers to a question of jurisdiction between Royal Standard Lodge, No. 398, G. R. E., and Acadia Lodge, No. 14, Nova Scotia, which was settled in a fraternal manner.

The Address concludes with this excellent fraternal advice:

"Brethren, be united; bury all dissensions, if any unhappily exist; work here with one aim—the good of the Craft—and may the Great Architect of the Universe have you in his holy keeping."

The Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Brother Charles R. Smith, submitted a report of his official acts during the time that the Grand Master was absent from the Province. The record consists principally of dispensations granted and refused. He refused a dispensation to allow the Fellow Craft degree to be conferred in less than the constitutional time—the Master Mason's degree being the only one in Nova Scotia which is the subject of this doubtful privilege. The only approach to a "decision" in the report is an "instruction" to one of the Lodges that a Brother dimitting from a Lodge in the Jurisdiction has the right to have his Masonic rank stated in his dimit.

The Grand Secretary's report is very complete. He has had the usual difficulty in getting the returns in on time, and has to complain of the District Deputy Grand Masters, many of whom neglect the duty of making a report of their work. The returns show an approximate member-

ship of 3,406, the loss during the year being 47. The Grand Secretary thinks, however, that when the "wave of prosperity" which has been noticed in Western Canada shall have reached Nova Scotia, things will be different.

The Finance Committee report a debt on the Temple building of \$27,660.00, the mortgage having been reduced \$1,000.00 during the year. They recommend the extinction of the debt, which is doubtless a "consummation devoutly to be wished," but suggest no means for its accomplishment.

Nine District Deputy Grand Masters supervise the work of the Craft, and eight of them make reports of their official visits. One came across that *rara avis*, a Secretary who resented a little good advice when it was offered him, and another fell in with a Lodge which, spiritually, is not quite so strong as last year, but with good assets. Just what the spiritual assets consist of, or how they are estimated, we do not know.

On the recommendation of the proper committee, recognition was extended to the Grand Orient of Belgium; the Grand Master was authorized to represent the Grand Lodge at the Washington Memorial services and a grant of \$150.00 was made to cover his expenses. A pleasant feature of the session was a fraternal visit from M. W. Thos. Walker, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, with M. W. Brother Robert Marshall, Past Grand Master, and R. W. Brother W. B. Wallace, Deputy Grand Master. In replying to the welcome extended by the Grand Master, R. W. Brother Wallace alluded to the desirability of amalgamating the three maritime Grand Lodges and suggested that a committee be appointed to confer with the representatives of New Brunswick. This suggestion was favorably received and a committee appointed, as well as a committee to consider the advisability of a union of the Grand Lodges of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

A number of Brethren who had held office as District Deputy Grand Master were accorded Past rank. This feature of the Proceedings in Nova Scotia and Manitoba strikes us as funny. How would one describe a Brother who had served as District Deputy Grand Master if not as Past District Deputy Grand Master? The inference seems to be plain

that if a District Deputy Grand Master has served his term he would become a Past District Deputy Grand Master without more ado.

We would again call Brother Ross' attention to two trifling mistakes in his Proceedings. The Grand Lodge of British Columbia meets on the Thursday in June immediately preceding St. John's day, not on the third Saturday in June, and the Representative of Nova Scotia, R. W. Brother Peter Grant, lives in New Westminster, *not* Victoria.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is nominally the work of a Committee consisting of R. W. Brothers T. V. B. Bingay and W. E. Thompson, but as the Grand Secretary's initials are appended to certain of the reviews, he evidently had a hand in it. The Report is a fair and well-written review of the doings of sixty-four Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898.

Our Proceedings fell to the hand of Brother Bingay, who devotes three pages of his report to a fraternal review of our doings. He refers to the complaint of one of our District Deputy Grand Masters that it is the practice in certain Lodges to wear white linen instead of white lambskin aprons, and states that the practice is not unknown in Nova Scotia. He makes the suggestion that each Lodge present an apron to its newly-raised members—a custom which, we are glad to say, already prevails in some of our Lodges.

The report of R. W. Brother Young as District Deputy Grand Master; the sermon of V. W. Brother Logan, and our own modest effort, are all mentioned with approval.

The Grand Secretary, in concluding the report, commends the action of those Grand Lodges which contented themselves with appealing to the good sense and fraternal feeling of the Grand Lodge of Washington rather than to the fear of ostracism, and commends that Grand Lodge for having yielded to those fraternal appeals, thus restoring the harmony which always should exist between Brethren.

M. W. Thos. B. Flint, Grand Master.

R. W. the Hon. William Ross, Grand Secretary.

OHIO.

90th Annual Communication.

Toledo.

25th October, 1899.

With the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge we are favored with excellent half-tone portraits of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Brother E. C. Gulliford, and of Brother Sidney Moore, a generous Brother who donated a Masonic Temple to the Brethren of Delaware, Ohio.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in Ample Form, Brother the Hon. S. M. Jones, Mayor of the City, was introduced, and extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the City. To this, and to an Address of welcome on behalf of the local Brethren, the Grand Master replied in fitting terms.

The Grand Master's Address is a document of fifty-one pages in length. In it he refers to those who have "fallen asleep" during the year, particular reference being made to Brother Enoch Terry Carson and M. W. Brother Charles C. Kiefer, two prominent and well-beloved members of Grand Lodge.

A long list of special dispensations is given, in which we fail to find one for the purpose of conferring degrees out of time, with the possible exception of one which authorizes the conferring of the Entered Apprentice degree at a special meeting.

Three decisions are reported, as follows:

Held—That it is undesirable for the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden or Secretary to subscribe to or cause the lodge seal to be affixed to any diploma other than the one recommended by this Grand Lodge.

Held—That it is improper to post in the ante-rooms a list of suspensions or expulsions where lodge-rooms are occupied, or permitted to be occupied by societies other than strictly Masonic.

Held—That robes used in the conferring of degrees should not be worn in a Masonic procession.

Clandestine Masonry, the Grand Master says, is fast dying out in Ohio, for which we are devoutly thankful. He recommends that a regulation be adopted fixing the time which must elapse before a rejected candidate can renew his petition; he suggests six months. He calls attention to the fact that suitable Consecration vessels are needed; notes that one

Lodge surrendered its charter; details his official visits, and reports the various Lodges constituted and Halls dedicated.

Special Communications were held to lay the cornerstones of the Ottawa County Court House; the Brumbach Library Building at Van Wert; the Moore Masonic Temple, already referred to, at Delaware, and of the new building for the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Cleveland.

The practice of electing candidates for each degree does not commend itself to the Grand Master, who thinks it would be much more satisfactory if the one ballot elected a candidate to the three degrees. He thinks, and we venture to agree with him, that the practice recommended has, where it has been adopted, given satisfaction.

The Grand Master announces that the Cerneau cases had been decided by the courts in favor of the Grand Lodge. These cases were brought by members of some of the Lodges who, having joined the Cerneau organization, were threatened with expulsion. They asked for an injunction restraining the Lodges from proceeding to trial, but although they obtained an injunction from the lower Court, the higher Courts, on appeal, decided each case in favor of the Grand Lodge. The Brethren in Ohio have our hearty congratulations on the result of the trials.

It was necessary to deal firmly with one Lodge which transgressed by admitting to its meetings an expelled Mason. It was also the painful duty of the Grand Master to suspend from office the Worshipful Master of one of the Lodges, his offence being gross intoxication.

An enterprising member of one of the Lodges, the possessor of unlimited nerve, but limited capital, was the inventor of a patent "Flexible Field Roller." In his laudable ambition to see the patent roller in the possession of every hard-worked farmer, he was thwarted by the aforesaid lack of means and being a benevolent person, desired to extend his helping hand even to those who possibly had no use for the roller. To this end he started, or authorized, a system of "chain letters," promising to devote one-fourth of the gross receipts to "The Ohio Masonic Home," the other three-fourths to be devoted to the propagation of the roller. This coming to the ears of the Grand Master, that officer showed

a singular lack of appreciation of the Brother's disinterested efforts, and ordered him not only to recall the letters and to return the money collected, but threatened him with suspension in case of his failure to comply. Thus once more is enterprising poverty crushed.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother J. H. Bromwell, presents a very complete and interesting report. He states that with one exception all the Lodges have their returns and dues in on time. The number of members is shown by the returns as 44,201, a gain of 1,353 for the year. These are distributed among 501 active Lodges. Following up his suggestion of last year that the Lodge returns be made in duplicate and bound, he submits an estimate of the cost of the same, which he places at \$2,900.00. He announces the fact that M. W. Brother S. S. Williams has expressed his intention to donate to the Grand Lodge his entire Masonic Library, consisting of several thousand volumes.

Acting on the report of a special committee, the Grand Lodge expressed its disapproval of "life" or "veteran" membership, and on the advice of the Committee on Jurisprudence declined to adopt the system of one ballot for the three degrees, or to fix a definite time within which a rejected candidate may not renew his petition.

The Trustees of the Ohio Masonic Home report that that Institution now shelters 129 inmates. The cost of maintenance was about \$20,000.00 for the year.

To say that the Report on Foreign Correspondence is prepared by that veteran Masonic scholar, M. W. Brother W. M. Cunningham, is tantamount to saying that it is a valuable addition to the Masonic literature of the year. He reviews sixty-two English-speaking and eleven other Jurisdictions in a critical but impartial manner, British Columbia for 1898 receiving due attention.

In his introductory remarks, Brother Cunningham expresses himself as opposed to the infliction of the extreme penalty for non-payment of dues, although his own Grand Lodge is among those which have such a law. He rightly thinks that suspension or dropping from the roll, with the privilege of reinstatement upon payment of arrears, is a sufficient penalty. He thinks, too, that instead of being ridiculed, the

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Past Master's degree should be brought back to its original form as worked under the English ritual.

Our Proceedings are fraternally reviewed; V. W. Brother Logan's sermon being extensively quoted from. Of our personal work, Brother Cunningham has some very complimentary words, for which we beg to offer our thanks.

M.W. E. L. Lybarger, Grand Master.

R.W. J. H. Bromwell, Grand Secretary.

OKLAHOMA.

7th Annual Communication.

Oklahoma City.

14th February, 1899.

The Communication was presided over by M. W. Brother Enoch M. Bamford, whose portrait forms a frontispiece to the volume. His Address is a document of forty-two pages, recapitulating at length his official acts. Unlike the majority of Grand Masters, he has not been troubled with unnecessary questions. Six official visits were made, the impression received in each case being most favorable. Two Lodges were constituted, and eight started under dispensation. A number of dispensations were granted to rush candidates through the degrees. The reason usually given is that the candidate is suddenly called away from home, and wants the degrees conferred before leaving. We only mention the matter to give it our unqualified disapproval.

Twenty-one decisions are recorded, some of which well illustrate the curious questions that are asked.

2. On the 19th of March, 1898, I received a letter from the Secretary of Ponca Lodge, No. 18, saying that Bro. Bressie (now deceased) secured his dimit (which we have in our possession) from Lodge No. 598, A.F. & A.M., located at Big Springs, Texas, with the intention of affiliating with us. But, before placing his application, Bro. Bressie died. Now, his relatives request that (somehow) he (M. F. Bressie) may be enrolled as a member of Ponca Lodge No. 18, A.F. & A.M. Please state proceedings in the case.

Answer—I do not know any proceedings by which Bro. M. F. Bressie can be enrolled as a member of your lodge, now that he is dead. I believe, however, that under the state of 'act reported in your letter, his relatives would be entitled to a "widow and orphans' certificate."

showing his intention, his good standing and death. Your lodge may, if it suits them, issue such certificate.

6. Cloud Chief Lodge, U.D., writes that they have a man who wishes to receive the degrees of Mansory; that the man's hand and arm below the elbow is crippled so that he has not good use of it, but can use it about almost any kind of work; that his fingers are drawn considerably, but he can give all signs necessary; asking, is such a man eligible?

Answer--Under the facts above stated, yes.

7. Dale Lodge, U.D., on the 14th of October wrote to know if they could receive and confer the F.C. and M.M. degrees upon a dimitted E.A. from the State of Kentucky upon the brother proving himself proficient in the E.A. degree.

Answer--No. The petition must be referred to a committee of investigation, lie over one lunar month and be balloted upon the same as a petition for the three degrees. Previous to balloting the brother should be examined and the lodge satisfied that he is an E.A.

It is evident from No. 6 that the Grand Master is not a "physical perfectionist." No. 7 shows the difficulties that arise from the practice of issuing dimitts to E.A. and F.C.

8. Can an officer, W.M., or Wardens of a chartered Lodge be dimitted?

Answer--No, unless they remove permanently from the jurisdiction of their lodge.

9. Can an officer, W.M. or Wardens of a chartered Lodge act as officers, W.M. or Wardens of a U.D. lodge without first being dimitted from the former?

Answer--The W.M. cannot. The S.W. or J.W., or both, may, provided they live permanently within the to be jurisdiction of the U.D. lodge, and provided also that the Master of the chartered lodge is still in the jurisdiction of his lodge and able physically to discharge the duties of his office.

No. 8 was approved by the Grand Lodge, but all of No. 9, except the first sentence, was struck out.

The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington re Negro Masonry is dealt with, but while disapproving of its action the Grand Master does not counsel harsh measures. He recommends that a letter be sent to the Grand Lodge of Washington, urging it to retrace its steps and restore harmony among the American Grand Lodges.

Three Lodges needed discipline during the year, and the Grand Master administered it in a way calculated to advance the best interests of the Craft. Three corner-stones were

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laid; the application of the Grand Orient of Belgium for recognition was submitted to Grand Lodge, as was the request that Oklahoma be represented at the Washington Memorial Observances.

At the conclusion of the Grand Master's Address, R. W. Brother J. S. Murrow, Grand Secretary of the Indian Territory, was introduced to Grand Lodge, favoring the Brethren to an interesting Address.

The Grand Lecturer reports a fairly satisfactory condition of the Lodges visited. Their finances are well looked after, and the manner of doing the work is improving. New Lodges are wanted, he says, but they want good ones. He suggests that more attention be paid to the instruction of the Lodges.

A very carefully prepared Oration was delivered by R. W. Brother Charles Day, who, in spite of an attack of la-grippe, and a professed inability to provide a suitable discourse, furnished an interesting Address on the "Principles of the Institution," which cannot fail to benefit all who read it.

The Grand Lodge accepted an invitation to a banquet, and, learning that Brother Binns, of Oklahoma Lodge, an active and enthusiastic Mason, who had been stricken with paralysis, would appreciate a visit, called off, in order to visit him in a body.

Charters were granted to seven Lodges under dispensation.

The following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved: That Article IV., Uniform Code of By-Laws be amended to read as follows: No meeting of this lodge can be held without at least seven Master Masons, members of the lodge, are present, and one of whom must be the Master or one of the Wardens.

"All business, except the examination of candidates, and voting on their proficiency, conferring degrees, and having trials, shall be done in a lodge of Master Masons, and in balloting, at least seven balls must be deposited in the box, and in the preparation of the ballot not less than nine balls shall be placed in the box, two of which must be black.

"Entered Apprentices can act as officers in a lodge of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in a lodge of Fellow Crafts.

"Sec. 2. The trial of an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason shall be had in a lodge opened in the highest degree to which each has severally attained."

"Resolved: That when neither of the first three officers of a lodge are present at any stated, or legally called special meeting of a lodge, it shall be lawful for the Senior Past Master of such lodge, who may be present, to open and preside over such lodge."

How these two resolutions are going to work together is not very plain. According to Article IV, the Master or one of the Wardens must be present at every meeting of the Lodge, while the second resolution authorizes the senior Past Master present to open the Lodge in their absence. If the latter resolution is to govern we will perhaps be some day treated to the spectacle of a tyler presiding as Master. Oklahoma and Tennessee are unique in this respect, we believe.

Article VI. of the Constitution was amended so that no Brother is eligible to the office of Worshipful Master unless he shall have previously served as Warden.

After an absence of some years, R. W. Brother J. S. Hunt (whose portrait accompanies his report), again takes his seat at the reportorial table. He submits an exceedingly well-written review of the doings of fifty-six American Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898.

Before proceeding to the review proper, he gives us his views on certain matters of interest. Replying to those who criticized his Grand Lodge for abstaining from Reports on Foreign Correspondence, he says that he fully recognizes the utility of these Reports, but insists that they know their own business, and probably he is right.

In view of the circumstances of the *case*, he is not hard on the Grand Lodge of Peru, but he has no use for the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico. Of this body he says:

"Symbolic Masonry in Mexico has ever been a disgrace to the Order. It was a bastard at its conception, and has never risen to respectability. Rival political parties were known as the York and Scottish Rite parties, and Masonry was all things to all men, until the advent of the immaculate Grand Dieta, when she became all things to some women. The Grand Dieta Symbolica, (a National Grand Lodge, a Grand Lodge of Grand Lodges), comes to the front as the exponent of all the Masonic virtues and after out-Heroding Herod, and sinking Masonry to its lowest depths by rejecting the Bible as the

Great Light; by making women Masons, and chartering lodges of women Masons, calmly turns to the American Grand Lodges and asks to be recognized as a Masonic organization.

"In our poor judgment the country, nor the people, are adapted to Masonry, and a hundred years of probation is none too long to demonstrate her capacity to rise to a faint conception of the great principles of the Order.

"To those Grand Lodges who have endorsed by their recognition all the sins of commission and omission of the Grand Dieta; all the subterfuge, deceit and denial of her shortcomings, and have denounced Peru for an infinitesimal part of the same offence, we will only express ourselves by quoting: 'Consistency, thou art a jewel.'"

Dealing with our Proceedings, Brother Hunt thinks that M. W. Brother McLaren was in error in the ruling he made relative to residential qualification. Of our Report he speaks in the kindest manner, our opinions generally meeting with his approval.

Brother Hunt deprecates any interference with the right of the Lodge to decide whom they will receive as a visitor, or to whom they will accord a Masonic burial. He also expresses the opinion (which coincides with ours), that no favoritism should be shown to any class of men by remitting their dues—referring particularly to the practice of remitting dues to clergymen because of their calling.

We trust that the financial circumstances of Oklahoma may enable Brother Hunt to continue the preparation of these reports.

Chartered Lodges, 53. Members, 1895; gain, 431.

M.W. W. L. Eagleton, Grand Master.

R.W. J. S. Hunt, Grand Secretary.

8th Annual Communication.

Oklahoma City.

13th February, 1900.

A handsome portrait of Grand Master W. L. Eagleton forms a frontispiece to this volume.

A Special Communication was held at Guthrie, on the 4th of October, 1899, to lay the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple being built at that place.

The Grand Master says all that he has to say in an Address which takes up only eighteen pages, being confined

to a business-like statement of his duties without any useless padding. He states that the Institution in Oklahoma is prosperous, and with few exceptions, peace and harmony prevail among the Lodges. He pays a Brotherly tribute to the memory of prominent Brethren of other Jurisdictions, and states that although their Lodges have suffered many losses, the membership of Grand Lodge remains unbroken.

The Committee appointed to systematize the work has completed its labors, and there is now a standard work for Oklahoma. For the purpose of securing efficient visitation of the Lodges, the Territory was divided into four Districts, one being in charge of the Grand Master himself. He devoted some time to this part of his work, visiting all the Lodges in his District with the exception of two. He also visited the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory, and was made most welcome. He was present at a Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and at the Washington Memorial Exercises, from both of which visits he derived much pleasure.

The fact that the Grand Lodge of Tennessee has reverted to the Grand Representative system moves the Grand Master of Oklahoma to recommend that it be adopted in the Territory, but although the suggestion met with the approval of the Special Committee to which the matter was referred, the Grand Lodge did not see it in that light, so that Oklahoma is still one of the few Jurisdictions without Grand Representatives.

The proposition of the Grand Master of Wyoming to establish a Supreme Lodge, did not commend itself to the Grand Master. The committee appointed to write to the Grand Lodge of Washington and, presumably, inform that Grand Lodge of Oklahoma's views on the subject of Negro Masonry, failed to carry out its instructions. The Grand Master is pleased to note, however, that Washington has apparently reconsidered its action. Eight Lodges were constituted; six dispensations for new Lodges, and a number of other dispensations were issued. Among the latter were two or three for the conferring of degrees out of time. They were apparently issued for good reasons, for, we are glad to note that the Grand Master refused several similar applications when the circumstances did not seem to justify this exercise of his power.

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Seventeen decisions are reported. All were, doubtless, in accord with the Masonic law of the Territory, as all were confirmed by the Grand Lodge. They do not cover any new points of law, although as one or two have reference to a practice which does not obtain here—we refer to the “waiver” over elected candidates—we reproduce them.

Cheyenne Lodge asks :—

1st. Is it necessary for our lodge to ask a lodge in Texas for waiver of jurisdiction over an E.A. living in our jurisdiction, or can the E.A. ask for the waiver?

Answer—It is customary that the lodge ask the waiver, but I know of no law that prevents the E.A. asking for it if he desires.

2nd. Jurisdiction being waived, does our lodge vote on the application, or merely on the proficiency of the candidate?

Answer—When waiver is obtained, the brother should petition your lodge to confer the other two degrees, and it then takes the same course as a petition for the degrees, after he is elected, then he must show himself proficient in the First degree.

3rd. When the candidate takes the other two degrees, where is his membership—in our Lodge, or in the Texas Lodge?

Answer—He is a member of your Lodge if jurisdiction was waived by Texas Lodge, but if you conferred the degrees at the request of the Texas Lodge, then the membership is in Texas.

The Grand Master is very anxious to see a start made towards the foundation of a “Masonic Home.” He thinks that some of the older Jurisdictions made mistakes in their methods of going to work, some of them in waiting until the Grand Lodge felt able to undertake the work, and others in relying upon individual subscriptions. The plan which the Grand Master approves, and which was adopted by the Grand Lodge, is to levy a special tax of twenty-five cents upon the membership. In this way it is expected that before long they will accumulate a sum of money which will warrant the construction of a Home.

R. W. Brother J. S. Hunt, Grand Secretary, gives a brief but comprehensive report. He is well pleased with the Lodge Secretaries, who, with an occasional exception, are “models of clerical ability.” Oklahoma is the place to have printing done, the Grand Secretary stating that the Annual Report had been printed for one dollar a page—and it is well printed, too.

A proposition was made to allow Lodges in neighboring Jurisdictions to use material in Oklahoma, provided these Jurisdictions extend like privileges to Lodges in the Territory. After being referred to a Committee and being thoroughly discussed, the resolution was defeated.

The Grand Orator, Brother Arthur R. Garrett, delivered a short Address which contained many beautiful truths.

A large amount of other business was transacted, which, however, was of local interest only.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence this year, but we observe with pleasure that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was instructed to prepare one to be printed with the Proceedings next year.

Chartered Lodges, 48; membership, 2,140; gain, 275.

M. W. William M. Anderson, Grand Master.

R. W. J. S. Hunt, Grand Secretary.

OREGON.

49th Annual Communication.

Portland.

14th June, 1899.

A handsome portrait of the Grand Master, M. W. Brother John B. Cleland, forms a frontispiece to the volume.

At the Annual Communication, British Columbia was represented by W. Brother B. G. Whitehouse.

The Grand Master delivered a most interesting Address. He began with a patriotic reference to the late war; pays a fraternal tribute to two well-known Brethren who are no longer with them—M. W. Geo. M. Stroud, Grand Lecturer, and Past Grand Master, and R. W. Brother Thos. L. Wallace, Past Junior Grand Warden—and is not unmindful of other Jurisdictions which have been similarly afflicted. If afforded him much pleasure to resume friendly relations with Peru; he constituted two Lodges, dedicated two Masonic Halls, and laid two corner-stones; a number of official visits were made, and a number of dispensations were granted—many of them, we regret to say, to confer degrees out of time.

Twenty-seven decisions are reported, all of which were, apparently, in harmony with Oregon Masonic law, as all received the approval of the Grand Lodge.

1. Q.—Must a Master Mason holding a dimit from an Eastern jurisdiction, who has applied for membership and been rejected, wait six months before he can again apply to the lodge that rejected him?

A.—No.

2. Q.—May such rejected Master Mason immediately apply to a lodge located in a different community from the one that rejected him?

A. Yes.

3. Q.—Is it incumbent on a Master Mason holding a dimit, who has applied for membership and been rejected, to contribute to the support of the Grand Lodge?

A.—No.

4. A lodge by rejecting a petition for membership by affiliation cannot deprive a Mason of the right to lodge burial.

These decisions are certainly correct. We are glad to see that Oregon is not one of those Jurisdictions where unaffiliation is punished with Masonic death.

12. Q.—Can a lodge entertain a petition for affiliation from a brother who is a citizen and resident of another state?

A.—No. (See Proceedings, 1898, page 88.)

This is apparently the law in Oregon, but we believe it is generally held that a dimitted Mason may petition for membership in any lodge which he may elect.

13. Q.—Can a Royal Arch Mason, not being an actual Past Master, confer the Past Master degree on a Master-elect?

A.—No; nor can Chapter Past Masters be present when the Past Master degree is conferred on a Master-elect. (See Proceedings, 1896, page 133, decision of P.G.M. Malcolm.)

Correct.

14. Q.—The Worshipful Master summoned a number of brethren to appear at a regular communication of the lodge and show cause why they should not be stricken from the rolls for non-payment of dues to January 1, 1898; the membership at the time did not exceed fifty, and some 35 were delinquent. Eighteen members were present at the meeting, some of them delinquent. A motion was made to the effect that the dues of all brethren up to January 1, 1899, be remitted; on the motion being put, there were fifteen votes in the affirmative and three in the negative, and it was carried. Was such action legal?

A.—No.



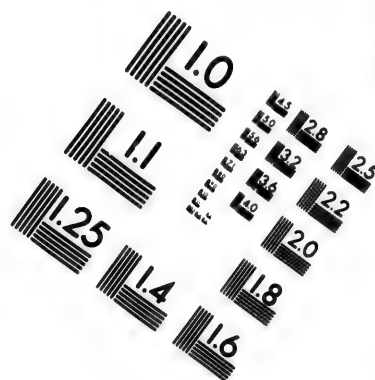
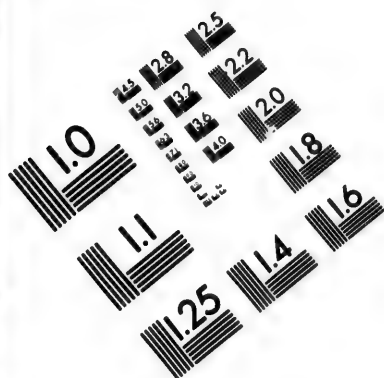
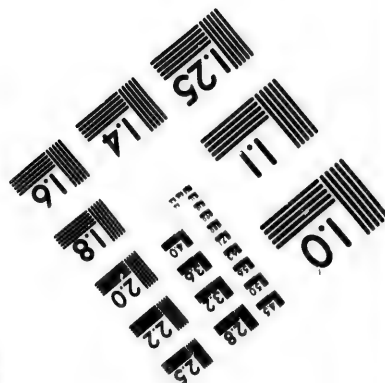
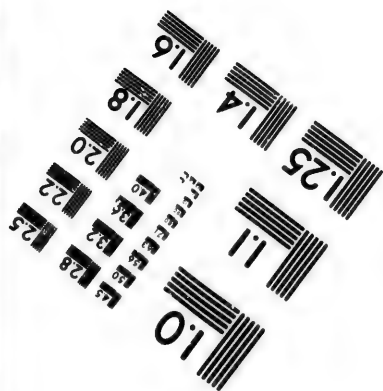
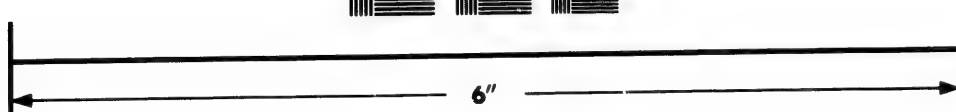
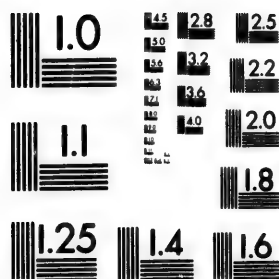


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Probably because of some local regulation. We do not see why a Lodge may not remit the dues of any of its members if so disposed.

21. Q.—A member of a lodge has signed a petition to form a new lodge, and the application is referred to his lodge for recommendation. Has this member a right to vote on the question of recommendation?

A.—No; he is a petitioner and directly interested in the question, therefore has no right to vote.

22. Q.—A Master Mason has signed the petition to form a new lodge, applies for a dimit, all arrearages being paid. Can his lodge refuse to grant it?

A.—Yes.

23. Q.—Can a member who would live within the jurisdiction of the mother lodge, after a new lodge is formed, obtain a dimit to become a member of the new lodge?

A.—No.

These decisions must also be based on some local law. We fail to see how a member in good standing could be deprived of his right to vote on any question before the Lodge. If, as in 21, he is an interested party, he may be no more so than some who are not on the petition. Neither do we see why the Brethren mentioned in 22 and 23 should be refused dimit. We believe that any Brother free of indebtedness to his Lodge and not under charges, should be given a dimit when he applies for it.

25. Q.—A Master Mason holding a dimit resides within the jurisdiction of a lodge, and does not contribute to its support. Is there any limit after which his dimit should not be recognized as legal?

A.—No.

26. Q.—Can a lodge vote money out of its funds to assist a new lodge?

A.—No.

27. One who has lost his left arm is not eligible to the degrees of Masonry.

Twenty-five and twenty-seven are correct, but why should a Lodge be restrained from disposing of its funds as it may deem proper?

So long ago as 1854 the Grand Lodge began the accumulation of an Educational Fund, which has grown from a modest \$150.00 to a sum in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00. As no definite plan has been adopted to provide for the utili-

zation of this fund, and as even the income from it is far more than is required for educational purposes, the Grand Master recommends that part of the principal and so much of the income as is not required for educational purposes be transferred to the General Fund of Grand Lodge.

Two charters were arrested, and one Lodge surrendered its charter, one Lodge was summoned to appear and explain why it invaded the Jurisdiction of a neighboring Lodge; a standard set of blanks was recommended, and the appointment of a Permanent Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence is suggested. The latter would not be exactly a Permanent Committee, but consists of six members, two being appointed for two years, two for four years, and two for six years. We think this would likely prove a valuable suggestion.

The trouble that prevails in many Jurisdictions as regards uniformity of work, has also cropped up in Oregon. It has been their custom to endeavor to attain that end through the services of a Grand Lecturer, but for various reasons this method has not proven satisfactory. The great distances to be travelled involve much expense and loss of time, and twice within a few years their Grand Lecturer has been removed by death. To obviate some of the difficulties, the Grand Master recommends that the State be divided into three districts, each to be placed in charge of a Custodian of the Work, who would serve for a term of six years. By frequent consultation these Custodians would be able to preserve the work as adopted by Grand Lodge. As the uniformity of the written portion of the work is only second in importance to uniformity in the unwritten work, the Grand Master recommends the adoption of Mackey's Monitor as a guide. Both of these suggestions commended themselves to Grand Lodge, and were adopted.

He recommends also an appropriation towards the expenses of the Washington Memorial Observances, which was voted.

The subject of Negro Masonry, brought up by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, naturally comes in for notice. The Grand Master disapproves of the action of Washington, which, he thinks, is subversive of "the univer-

sality of Masonry in the States of the American Union." He says:

"If a Grand Lodge may accept one as a regular Mason who is held to be clandestine by the Grand Lodge within whose jurisdiction the claimant was made, then one held a regular Mason within the Jurisdiction where made may be found and declared clandestine in any other Grand Jurisdiction."

This is nothing new. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania every year declares clandestine Masons made in other States who are regarded as regular Masons in the State in which they are made.

The Grand Master calls attention to the fact that while the festival of St. John the Evangelist is generally celebrated, that of St. John the Baptist is as generally neglected. He thinks that this should not be so, and suggests that it be made an occasion when the members of the Lodges should meet and enjoy themselves.

A very complete report is furnished by the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Jas. F. Robinson. From it we learn that the number of Lodges in the Jurisdiction is 99, with a membership of 5,095.

The Committee on Relief reported the expenditure of an even \$1,000.00. It was ordered that the Masters of the various Lodges report to the Grand Master the case of any child of a Mason which is in need of assistance towards its education, to the end that a grant may be made from the Educational Fund. It was left entirely in the discretion of the Chairman of the Educational Fund whether to purchase more stock in the Masonic Building Association or not. It may be mentioned that the Masonic Building has proven so good an investment that shares are hard to get.

A proposal to limit the effect of a rejection to five years failed to obtain the support necessary for its adoption.

In reply to a question, the Committee on Jurisprudence decided that where a charge has been laid against a Brother, and where before trial the accuser dies, it is the duty of the Junior Warden to carry on the prosecution. The same Committee recommended the adoption of a resolution providing that the Committee on the petition of a profane shall not ask him any question relating to his petition. Both sugges-

tions were adopted, but we fail to see any good reason for the latter. It was also decided that "Mackey" should be the authorized text-book for the written work in the State.

The Grand Lodge

"Resolved: That all laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge which refer to a Past Master's degree be and are hereby repealed."

What the effect of this resolution will be is not apparent without a reference to their Constitution, of which we have not a copy.

The Committee on the Grand Master's Address "approved and endorsed" his sentiments on the Negro question, but no further action was taken. At least we infer not, from the fact that Past Grand Master Ankeny, of Washington, was admitted and received with the Grand Honors.

The admission and reception of the different Grand Representatives afforded an opportunity for able Addresses by the Grand Master and by M. W. Brother Clow, who responded on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps.

Past Grand Master Jacob Meyer was the recipient of a jewel, which, according to the Grand Secretary, is "an elegant production of the goldsmith's art." We are confident that it will be worthily worn.

A very able Report on Foreign Correspondence is written by M. W. Brother Robert Clow, who, in his usual happy manner, reviews the Proceedings of fifty-three American Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898. V. W. Brother Logan's sermon is described as "beautiful and practical," and Brother Clow does us the honor of agreeing with most of our expressed opinions.

Brother Clow always furnishes us with good reading, but we have already devoted so much space to Oregon that we must refrain from further notice of his interesting Report.

M. W. John M. Hodson, Grand Master.

R. W. James F. Robinson, Grand Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The volume before us contains the records of the Annual and the Quarterly Communications held during the year 1899. Also a splendid steel engraving of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, with steel engraved portraits of R. W. Henry W. Williams, Grand Master, 1899, and of R. W. William Whitney, Grand Master, 1850-1851.

At the Quarterly held March 1st, 1899, the sad announcement was made of the death of R. W. Henry W. Williams, which occurred on the 25th of January, 1899, but a short time after his installation into his high office. We offer our sincere sympathy to the Brethren of Pennsylvania in their great affliction.

At the Quarterly of June 7th, 1899, it was the melancholy duty of the Acting Grand Master to announce the deaths of three other prominent members of Grand Lodge, viz., R. W. Past Grand Master Joseph Eichbaum, Past Master John Slingluff, a member of the Committee on Finance, and District Deputy Grand Master Andrew J. Kauffman.

At the Quarterly of December 6th, 1899, the Trustees of the different Charity Funds made their reports. The Funds are as follows:

Grand Lodge Charity Fund.....	\$ 76,000.00
Stephen Girard Bequest	63,950.00
Thos. R. Patton, Memorial Charity Fund.....	54,426.00
Stephen Taylor Bequest	11,050.00
	\$205,426.00

The Temple Committee state that to bring the building up to the times several alterations are required, and submit the report of an architect as to the changes necessary. On their recommendation the matter was referred to a committee to investigate and report at the meeting in March.

At the Annual Communication held on the 27th of December, 1899, the almoners of the various Charity Funds presented statements of the work done by them. Briefly stated, it is as follows:

Grand Lodge Charity Fund—450 applicants relieved to the extent of.....	\$3,837 00
Stephen Girard Charity Fund—185 applicants relieved to the extent of.....	3,365 00
Thos. R. Patton Charity Fund.....	1,461 00

The Acting Grand Master, R. W. George E. Wagner, delivered the Annual Address. He mentions in words of Brotherly affection the eminent Brethren who were, during the year, removed from the scene of their earthly labors. He refers to the proposed Washington Memorial Services, giving his correspondence with the M. W. Grand Master of Virginia, and with the committee of that Grand Lodge which had charge of the arrangements. In accordance with what he says is the invariable rule in Pennsylvania, that neither the Grand Lodge nor a subordinate Lodge can appear in public, he was, with regret, obliged to decline the invitation to be present. He admits, however, that the Grand Master does appear in public at the laying of corner-stones and to take part in funerals—in the former case "calling to his assistance such Brethren as he sees proper, and the stone is laid." In the case of a funeral, "the Master of the Lodge calls the members, who attend the funeral as Brethren, not as a Lodge, because there can be no Lodge outside of a tyled room, and it is, of course, impossible to bury except in a cemetery." At this distance we do not just see why the Grand Master could not have "called to his assistance," if necessary, such Brethren as he saw proper, and have represented Pennsylvania at the function above referred to.

In view of the repeal by Washington of the resolutions of 1898, the Grand Master at first felt inclined to withdraw the edict of non-intercourse, but after reflection, concluded not to do so, because the resolutions passed in 1899 say, in effect, "We reserve to our own Lodges, and our Grand Lodge, the exclusive right to decide upon the legitimacy of all visitors or affiliates, and deny the right of any other Grand Lodge to have an opinion on the subject." As this is exactly the position taken by Pennsylvania and those Grand Lodges which refused to associate with Washington, it appears as if the adage "People who live in glass houses," etc., would apply.

With the exception above noted, their relations with other Grand Lodges are most cordial. The proposal of the Grand Master of Wyoming to consider the establishment of a Gen-

eral Grand Lodge met with a cold refusal. While convinced that the prerogative of making Masons at sight is inherent in the Grand Master, and although repeatedly requested to exercise the prerogative, he refused to do so, the cases presented to him not seeming to warrant a departure from the usual custom. He is a strict constructionist of the physical perfection rule, and refused permission to initiate several applicants who did not attain the necessary standard.

The Grand Master held that a Lodge could not dispose of its funds as it deemed proper; that a Lodge could not as a Lodge conduct religious services, nor could Lodge notices be sent on postal cards. Among the Decisions we note the following:-

A reception cannot be held in a lodge-room. Lodges cannot hold a reception in the lodge-room or elsewhere; nor can lodge funds be used to defray the expenses of a reception; nor can the lodge name be used for such a purpose. The powers and duties of lodges are set forth in their Warrants, in the Ahiman Rezon and the Usages and Customs of the Fraternity. These include lodges at labor and lodges at refreshment. A Masonic banquet must be for Masons only.

No Masonic Lodge can participate in a civic procession.

A lodge must not vote its funds to any object that is not Masonic.

No lodge shall advance any but its own members.

An installed officer cannot resign his office, he being obligated to serve for a Masonic year.

It is unmasonic for any brother to solicit votes for himself for an office, either in person, by written appeals, or by sending tickets.

It is reprehensible and unmasonic for a brother to divulge how he voted on a petition.

A petitioner who cannot read or write, save only his own name, may be initiated, if otherwise qualified and regularly approved by the lodge.

If a summons to a delinquent is not actually *signed* by the Worshipful Master, the suspension of such member for non-payment of dues is unlawful and void.

It is not permitted to have a choir chant the Lord's Prayer in a lodge during the conferring of a degree. All work must be as authorized, without addition or amendment.

The usual number of Edicts were issued, many of them being to "strike from the roll" the names of persons made Masons in contravention of the regulations of the Constitution. As the Grand Master says at a later time,

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"These gentlemen have been badly treated. Either through ignorance of the law on the part of lodge officers, or through attempts on the part of such officers to 'get around the law,' these innocent victims have been made to suffer."

and gives notice that in future, when his duty compels him to set aside an initiation for such reason, he will, at the same time, suspend the Master of the Lodge in which the irregularity occurs.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, although signed by the Committee (M. W. Brother Michael Arnold, chairman), appears to have been written mainly by Brother James M. Lamberton. It is an excellent review of most of the Grand Lodges with which they maintain relations. British Columbia, however, does not appear. Under Maine, Brother Lamberton takes up the cudgels against Brother Drummond, because he questions the accuracy of the statement that Pennsylvania is the birthplace of Masonry in America. In his review of New Hampshire, he draws distinction between the "Grand Officers," and the "Officers of the Grand Lodge." By the former he means the *elected*, and by the latter the *appointed* officers. It seems rather like the quibble over the terms "non-affiliated" and "unaffiliated," a distinction without a difference.

R. W. George E. Wagner, Grand Master.

R. W. William A. Sinn, Grand Secretary

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

24th Annual Communication. Charlottetown.

26th June, 1899.

Special Communications were held at Kensington, 27th June, 1898, to lay the corner-stone of a Methodist Church, and at Crapaud, 9th July, 1898, to dedicate a Masonic Hall.

In his Annual Address the Grand Master chronicles the following decision:

"I was requested by one of our lodge Secretaries to decide on the following question: 'Whether after a petition had been received, ballot spread, and the candidate declared elected, could a member of the lodge at the next meeting object, and the petition be rejected?' To which we gave the following reply: 'It is the inherent right of any brother, Master Mason, in good standing, to object to the initiation of a

candidate into his own lodge, although clearly elected, and his objection would mean a rejection of the candidate.' "

The Charity Committee reports funds on hand amounting to \$301.54. It was announced that the Hon. Benjamin Rogers, of Charlottetown, had signified his intention to donate an additional \$100.00 to the fund, which munificent gift was suitably acknowledged.

The Grand Lodge received a visit from the Hon. Robert Marshall, Past Grand Master of New Brunswick, who in a few felicitous remarks expressed his pleasure at being present, and suggested that a Committee be appointed to confer with similar Committees from the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia *re* the federation of the Grand Lodges of the Maritime Provinces.

One Lodge was granted a charter.

The matter of Negro Masonry was referred by the Grand Master to a Committee, which made a report affirming the adhesion of Grand Lodge to the doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, and expressing the hope that the Grand Lodge of Washington will take such action as will restore the harmony of the Craft. We are not informed whether or not the report was adopted.

British Columbia was not represented at this Communication, having apparently no Representative near Prince Edward Island.

Lodges, 13; members, 526.

M. W. John A. Messervy, Grand Master.

R. W. Neil McKelvie, Grand Secretary.

QUEBEC.

29th Annual Communication.

Montreal.

25th January, 1899.

With this volume of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge we are presented with the portraits of three more Past Grand Masters of Quebec, viz., M. W. Isaac H. Stearns (1889-1890), Frank Edgar (1891-1892), and Lieut.-Col. Thos. P. Butler (1893).

Special Communications were held in the town of Valleyfield, on the 26th of March, 1898, and in the town of Cookshire, 6th July, 1898, the former to constitute Valleyfield Lodge, and the latter to dedicate the Masonic Hall.

British Columbia's Representative did not attend the Annual Communication.

The Grand Master delivered a very able Address, reminding the Brethren that there is no wisdom save that which comes from on High, where, also, we must look for our strength. He rejoices that the two wars recently concluded—that of the United States against Spain, and that of Great Britain against Osman Digna—are likely to result in the extension of the true principles of civilization, and hopes, too, that the Czar's proposal for the disarmament of the nations may be productive of good.

The Grand Lodge mourns for R. W. Brother T. H. Lloyd, one of the Grand Chaplains, who, while yet in the prime of life, was called on to lay aside his working tools.

Three new Lodges were constituted; three dispensations were issued to confer degrees out of time, the application in each case, the Grand Master says, having much to recommend it.

The Grand Master was consulted on behalf of a Brother, now residing in his Jurisdiction, who, after having received the E. A. Degree in England, removed to New Brunswick, where, after some correspondence with his mother Lodge, he was passed and raised. He then applied for his Master Mason's certificate, but was told that the Grand Lodge of England could not grant a certificate for degrees conferred outside of its Jurisdiction. Feeling that a wrong had been done the Brother, in that he was now left without any credentials and with no way of getting any, the Grand Master requested the Lodge nearest his residence to re-obligate him in the three degrees without fee. This was accordingly done, the Brother presumably receiving a certificate from the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

The same trouble has occurred in this Jurisdiction, and it seems a very unfraternal practice on the part of the Grand Lodge of England to refuse to acknowledge work done on behalf of one of its Lodges by a Lodge in another Jurisdiction with which it maintains friendly relations.

The three Lodges in Montreal holding under the Grand Lodge of England still refuse to come into the fold, and all efforts to secure that end have been unavailing. This is quite in keeping with the practice of the Grand Lodge of England, which refuses to coerce its Lodges into changing their obedience.

We notice with pleasure that our old friend, R. W. Brother John Smillie, was honored by the Grand Master by being nominated to represent the Grand Lodge of South Dakota near Quebec.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters show that with hardly an exception the Lodges are prosperous and the members display great interest in the work. These officers are to be commended for the thorough manner in which they have performed their duties.

The Grand Chaplain, R. W. Brother H. A. Brooke, delivered a beautiful Address upon "The Principles of Masonry."

An able Report on Foreign Correspondence by Brother Will. H. Whyte is printed as an appendix to the Proceedings. Under Arkansas he takes Brother Grace to task for asserting that there is a landmark "that *three* Master Masons may open a Lodge of Master Masons," and says that he has never heard of such a landmark. Probably Brother Grace, when he wrote, had in his mind the Constitutions of England and of Scotland, which provide that three Master Masons may hold the warrant, the inference from this being that they may meet as a Lodge. (England has recently changed the number to *five*.) He does not agree with the Committee on Jurisprudence of Connecticut, whose report was "That Lodges may, in their discretion, perform the burial services in case of a non-affiliated Mason," etc. He agrees rather with the Grand Master of that Jurisdiction, who thinks that non-affiliates cannot claim Masonic burial. We venture to think that both are right. Non-affiliates cannot *claim* Masonic burial, but there is no good reason why a Lodge may not accord it if it sees fit.

Brother Whyte objects to the formation of a General Grand Lodge, because it would, as he says, be "a creator placing a creature in authority over and above." But was not this just what was done when the four Lodges met in London and formed the first Grand Lodge?

Brother Whyte reviews our Proceedings for 1898, and is pleased to be complimentary to both V. W. Brother Logan and ourself. We cannot lay claim, however, to the mystic letters P. G. M. appended to our name. Delete the middle letter, Brother Whyte, and you have us sized up.

In his "Conclusion," Brother Whyte announces that he lays down the reportorial pen, and that M. W. Brother Chambers again takes it up. While we shall have much pleasure in welcoming Brother Chambers on his return to the guild, we cannot refrain from expressing our regret that Brother Whyte's term of office was so short.

Lodges, 55, with a membership of 3,643.

M. W. Benjamin Tooke, Grand Master.

M. W. John H. Isaacson, Grand Secretary.

RHODE ISLAND.

109th Annual Communication.

Providence.

15th May, 1899.

Besides the Proceedings of the Annual Communication, the volume before us contains the records of three Special and the Semi-annual Communications.

The first Special Communication was held on the 18th of May, 1898, and the object of it was to consecrate the Altar erected by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Providence. After the ceremony of consecration the Brethren listened to an admirable Oration by Brother Walter B. Vincent. We should like to reproduce the whole of it, but must content ourselves with one or two passages.

"The altar is a most ancient structure. Cain and Abel are supposed to have worshipped at some primitive form of altar, although the first of which we have any account was erected by Noah, on leaving the ark. There is a legend that this altar was formed in part from the remains of one built by Adam on his expulsion from Paradise, and afterwards used by Cain and Abel on the identical spot where Abraham prepared to offer up Isaac. The ancient altars were of two kinds. There was the altar of sacrifice and the altar of incense. The word 'altar' which comes from the Hebrew, means to slay. The altar of sacrifice was a place of slaughter, by the knife or by burning, while from the altar of incense arose the smoke of aromatic herbs, which,

like the blood of slaughtered animals, was supposed to appease the wrath of God.

"With the enlightenment which has come to us with the lapse of time, many things have passed away. The altar is no longer the place for slaughter, burnt offering or incense, but a place for the sacrifice of praise, and thanksgiving to the God of Jacob, who brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt and out of the house of bondage, and established our feet for all time on the solid foundation of peace. The blood has been wiped away; the fire has been extinguished; and in place of these things we find upon our altar the Word of God, the Square and the Compasses, the teachings of which help us so to regulate our lives in this world that we may with confidence look forward to that life which is to come."

"The true spirit of Masonry is not found in the glitter and sparkle of ceremonials, but comes from that inward preparation; that preparation in the heart, which brings us all to one level, adjusts our dealings by the Square and duly circumscribes our desires. That is what our fathers understood so well, and that understanding enabled them to build the foundation and rear for us the noble structure which to-day constitutes our heritage, which we stand charged to preserve, and to transmit untarnished to our successors. Are we performing that duty truly and well; is the vital question which every brother should answer to himself, as his eyes rest upon the altar which we are now consecrating to the sacred use of this lodge and to Masonry. These ceremonials are right and proper, so long as they remain the outward trappings of goodness and truth; so long as they are understood to be the shadow and not the substance of the Masonic Institution.

"The great Masonic question of to-day is, how best to preserve the great gift of our fathers, and how best to use it, not only for the advancement of the Craft, but for the general good. If we look at the altar which we are now consecrating, and see what it bears, we shall not find the question a difficult one to answer. We find there the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, which our fathers ever found upon their altars, and which constituted the guide and rule of their Masonic action. We know full well what these things teach. Let us follow those teachings as our fathers followed them, in simplicity and truth, and the noble Institution of Freemasonry shall continue on, in all its strength and vigor, and with all its power for good, until the end of all things shall come."

Washington Lodge, No. 5, Wickford, celebrated its Centennial on the 4th of July, 1898, the Grand Lodge not taking part, although the Grand Master and his officers were the guests of the Lodge.

A Special Communication was held on the 22nd of February, 1899, to participate in the Centennial celebration of Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 4, Providence.

The Semi-annual Communication was held on the 21st of November, 1898. The Grand Secretary submitted his semi-annual report, and the Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented a report on the subject of Negro Masonry. This report, while of the same general tenor as most reports on the subject, is noticeable for the Brotherly forbearance it displays. Although the Committee are convinced of the error of the Grand Lodge of Washington, they refrain from urging harsh measures, but fraternally express the hope that the Grand Lodge of Washington will see its mistake, and restore harmony among the American Grand Lodges.

At the Annual Communication the Grand Master read a very able Address. He notes that during the year ten members of Grand Lodges have been called to their reward. He issued a number of special dispensations, but declined to set the law aside simply to suit the convenience of profanes. Only two decisions are reported, and they are given at great length. The first refers to a case where, the Senior Warden presiding, the ballot was passed on an applicant and was found to be dark. The presiding officer then ordered a second ballot to be taken, and before it was taken asked for remarks, which most of the Brethren were ready to make. The ballot was again dark, when the Master asked the Brother who cast the black ball to state his objections to the candidate. One of the officers of the Lodge stated that he had cast the black ball, not that he had anything against the applicant himself, but he had been requested by another Brother to do so. After a somewhat heated discussion, the officer asked permission to withdraw, when the ballot was again passed, and was found clear.

The Grand Master's decision is, briefly, that, the second ballot being dark, the candidate was rejected, and that the subsequent proceedings were void. In inviting remarks after the first ballot, and in asking the Brother who cast the black ball to declare himself, the presiding officer showed himself to be ignorant of the principles of Masonic Jurisprudence. The Master had no right to remove from office the officer who objected to the candidate, and finally, the Brother had a right to vote as he did. Although he knew nothing against the applicant himself, the information he received might have made it his imperative duty to cast a black ball.

The Grand Master did not favor the idea of a General Grand Lodge; he thinks that should the Grand Lodge of Washington not recede from its unfortunate position on the subject of Negro Masonry, it will be their duty to sever fraternal relations with it. We hope that the action of that Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication last year will prove to have obviated the necessity for such a step.

The Grand Master thinks that theoretically the District Deputy Grand Masters should preside at elections and install the officers of the Lodges. We fail to see the necessity for this. Why the Master of a Lodge is not capable of presiding at an election of officers is not apparent, while it is, we think, generally conceded that it is the prerogative of the retiring Master to instal his successor.

The Library Committee report that the Grand Lodge Library now contains some 6,000 volumes. A number of valuable books were received during the year, and an appropriation of \$2,000.00 was asked for, and granted.

The Grand Lodge was presented with an excellent portrait of M. W. Lyman Klapp, Past Grand Master, by his daughter, Mrs. Agnes K. Andrews; also with a Commission issued by Grand Master Jeremy Gridley, appointing Robert Jenkins Deputy Grand Master. It is dated the 20th of January, 1760; is signed by John Leverett, Grand Secretary, and bears the seal of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

It was ordered that the retiring Grand Master be presented with a Past Grand Master's jewel and apron.

The Representative of British Columbia does not appear to have attended either the Semi-annual or the Annual Communications.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Thirty-seven Lodges, with 5,220 members, a gain of 53.

M. W. Milton Livsey, Grand Master.

R. W. Edwin Baker, Grand Secretary.

SCOTLAND.

A Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held on the 2nd of November, 1899. The Standing Orders having been suspended, it was unanimously

resolved to donate One Hundred Guineas to the fund for the relief of the wives, widows and orphans of Scottish soldiers and sailors serving in South Africa.

The M. W. the Earl of Saltoun retiring from the Grand Mastership, Brother the Hon. James Hozier was nominated to that high office, *nem. con.*

Several charters were granted; one in the Transvaal, four in Western Australia, two in Queensland, and one in Aberdeenshire.

At a special meeting of the Grand Committee held on the 16th of November, 1899, a proposal was laid before the Committee on behalf of the District Grand Lodge of Queensland, that the District Grand Lodge should be recognized and designated as the "Grand Lodge of Queensland and the British Dependencies in the Pacific Ocean." A somewhat similar request was made by the District Grand Master of Western Australia, who desired the Grand Lodge to recognize him as the "Grand Master" of that colony. Although desirous of recognizing the ability with which Masonic affairs in both Districts, the Grand Committee do not feel disposed to recommend the Grand Lodge to agree with these propositions, the title of "Grand Master" being reserved to the Grand Master of Masons in Scotland. They suggest, however, that the District Grand Masters of both these Districts be given the title of Pro Grand Master of their respective Districts.

The Committee refers to the fact that a so-called Grand Lodge has been organized in Western Australia by a few Masons not affiliated with any Lodge in the Colony, although the Scotch and Irish Lodges object to its formation. They enunciate the principle that no new Grand Lodge can be formed unless by the act of a majority of the Lodges of every Constitution in the country. Another Grand Lodge has apparently been formed by the Lodges under the English Constitution, to which the Grand Committee does not refer, but which seems to be the more regularly constituted of the two.

At the Annual Communication which was held on the 30th of the same month, the Installation of the officers-elect took place, and charters were issued to new Lodges in Trinidad and Western Australia.

The Grand Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren proceeded to the Grand Hall to celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew. At the conclusion of the dinner, Grand Lodge was reopened and various patriotic and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

It may be noted that in Scotland, as in Ireland, the retiring Grand Master takes the rank of Right Worshipful.

M. W. the Hon. James Hozier, Grand Master.

R. W. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Half-yearly Communication.

19th October, 1898.

Annual Communication.

Adelaide.

19th April, 1899.

British Columbia was not represented at either of these Communications.

At the Half-yearly Communication it was mentioned that several improvements had been made in the Freemason's Hall. Two Lodges received warrants and were started on what appear to be prosperous careers. Any action regarding the Grand Lodge of Peru was deferred until the Annual Communication in April.

At the Annual Communication the Deputy Grand Master tendered the congratulations of Grand Lodge to the Grand Master, M. W. the Rt. Hon. S. J. Way, who had recently recovered from a severe illness.

The Board of General Purposes reported that the balance to the credit of the General Fund was £309 4s. 1d.; of the Benevolent Fund £676 8s. 7d., and of the Permanent Benevolent Fund £1,094 9s. 7d. The Freemason's Hall property has a credit balance of £15,302 6s. 5d.

The Board recommends the resumption of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and suggests the appointment of some Brother to represent Australia at the proposed Memorial services at Mount Vernon. The first recommendation was adopted by Grand Lodge and the second was left in the hands of the Board to take suitable action.

We notice that our old friend, W. Brother John M. O'Loughlin, of Winnipeg, was appointed Representative of

South Australia near the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, and we congratulate him upon the distinction.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Forty-two Lodges; 2,405 members.

M. W. the Rt. Hon. S. J. Way, Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. Cunningham, Grand Secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

123rd Annual Communication.

Charleston.

12th December, 1899.

The opening ceremonies having been completed, a hearty welcome to the City was extended by Past Grand Master the Hon. J. Adger Smith, Mayor, a fitting reply being made by the Grand Master, M. W. Brother Bartlett J. Witherspoon.

The Annual Address is a brief but very practical document, setting forth the work done by the Grand Master during the year. That the Craft is in a prosperous condition is demonstrated by the harmony and good feeling which exists in the Lodges. Foreign relations continue undisturbed, and are of a satisfactory nature. The Grand Master commends the report of the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Inglesby, and his praise is fully justified. The deaths of R. W. Brothers Thos. F. Hill, J. F. C. Dupre and S. A. Durham are chronicled, the Grand Master voicing the sorrow felt by the whole Jurisdiction.

Only two decisions are placed on record, both of which are correct. They are:

Q.—In the election of officers of the subordinate lodge, can the By-Laws be suspended, and the Master or Secretary cast the unanimous ballot of the lodge, when there is only one nomination for the office?

A.—I answered that they could not.

Q.—How should a M.M. wear his apron in the first degree, as an Entered Apprentice or as a Master Mason?

A.—As a Master Mason, we are taught. At the building of K. S. Temple, Masons wore their aprons according to the different degrees, M.M. wore theirs with the bib turned down.

A few dispensations were granted for various purposes, but that the Grand Master is not a believer in "railroading"

may be gathered from the following extract, with every word of which we agree:

"I have refused several applications for dispensations to confer degrees out of time, because the reasons assigned for them were not sufficient in my judgment to justify me in authorizing what, without dispensation, would be a violation of the Constitution. It is only urgent cases that would justify the Grand Master in doing that which is directly against the Constitution and the law. One will live under the shadow of the lodge hall for years, and never care to enter it, until he thinks of leaving; then, as an introduction, or a business speculation, he suddenly conceives a high opinion of Masonry, and asks that its laws be disregarded for his benefit, and that he be rushed through so that he may have a travelling certificate in his pocket; he will certainly not benefit the lodge that raised him, and he will know precious little about what he went through; he will, as a well-informed Mason, reflect no credit upon the lodge, himself, or the jurisdiction."

The Grand Master authorized the laying of three cornerstones; regrets that the Washington Memorial services happen so close to the meeting of the Grand Lodge as to prevent the attendance of several of their officers; discourages the idea of a Sovereign Grand Lodge, and gives a list of Grand Representatives commissioned and nominated by him. Two dispensations for new Lodges were issued; several visits made and two "appeals for aid" were sanctioned. He very properly declined to endorse an appeal from Agra Lodge, Agra, India, for assistance in building a Masonic Hall at that place, and several other applications for assistance failed to obtain his approval.

Speaking of Negro Masonry, the Grand Master expresses his gratification at the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and suggests that the Grand Master be empowered to remove the edict of non-intercourse so soon as he shall have received official notification of the repeal of the obnoxious resolutions.

The Grand Lodge was presented with a portrait of M. W. Brother William Tully Branch, Past Grand Master, on behalf of Clinton Lodge, No. 3, of which he was a life member. The gift was accepted on behalf of the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master in a few appropriate remarks.

The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and the Hall Committee submitted detailed reports; the Committee on Regalia reported having purchased regalia (clothing?) for the Grand Officers at a cost of \$424.95, and the Grand Treasurer reported having collected \$302.55 for the daughter of

one of their District Deputy Grand Masters, who had died leaving his family in straightened circumstances. Fifty dollars were disbursed by the Committee on Charity, besides which the Charleston Board of Relief expended \$121.64.

The reports of the eighteen District Deputy Grand Masters show that these officers realize the responsibilities of their position and exercise a watchful care over the Lodges under their control. They report that most of the Lodges are doing well—the exceptions being country Lodges where the members are widely scattered.

A recognition of the valuable services of M. W. Brother Jacob T. Barron, Past Grand Master, took the form of a handsome gold watch, which was presented to the distinguished Brother by R. W. Brother Orlando Sheppard in an address replete with beautiful sentiments, and was acknowledged by the recipient in an equally felicitous manner.

South Carolina is somewhat peculiar, in our experience, in that the Report on Foreign Correspondence is prepared by the Grand Secretary and is then referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for report. They have no hesitation, however, in awarding it the praise it so justly deserves, and very properly commend it to the thoughtful consideration of every member of the Craft.

In replying to the welcome extended to him as Representative of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, R. W. Henry A. de Saussure gave a very interesting address. It is too long to be reproduced here, but is interesting from an historical point of view.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is, as has already been stated, from the able pen of R. W. Brother Charles Inglesby, Grand Secretary. He reviews the Proceedings of fifty-nine Grand Lodges, and we have no hesitation in echoing the words of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence:

"It is one of the brightest and most interesting documents that has been produced by the facile pen of the Grand Secretary."

And we would add, or by anyone else.

British Columbia receives an exceedingly kind notice of two and a half pages. He quotes freely, and with approval, from the Addresses of M. W. Brother Wilson and R. W. Brother Walker, the former of whom he thanks "for his

clear definition of 'Masonic Dispensations.'” He is very complimentary in speaking of our work, for which he has our sincere thanks.

He quotes the communication from Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, to its mother Grand Lodge (California), as follows:

“They say,—‘we understand that the formation of a Grand Lodge in these islands is optional and not obligatory, and that it requires the co-operation of three chartered lodges, to form a Grand Lodge. Is this correct? In case action is taken by the other lodges to form a local Grand Lodge, without the concurrence and co-operation of Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, will we be justified in refusing to be coerced by a lodge which recognizes three black balls, and admits to Masonry candidates who are physically disqualified under our requirements? As Hawaii has become a part of the United States, is it not necessary for the lodges here holding charters from foreign jurisdictions to relinquish them and come either under some United States jurisdiction, or form a local Grand Lodge? In view of the desire of Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, to remain under the Grand Lodge of California, and not join a local Grand Lodge, is it not to our interest, in fact necessary,—that we consent to the two foreign lodges, viz.: Le Progres L’Océana and Pacific, coming under the American Jurisdiction, as we have reason to believe such is their desire?”

And says:

“It seems to us that the questions were very easy to answer. Our American doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction, is so well settled, and so clear that he who runs may read. Three regularly chartered lodges in a territory which has no Grand Lodge, have the right to organize and form a new Grand Lodge, but such Grand Lodge must be Masonic and conform to the landmarks and established forms, usages and laws of Masonry. When it fills these requirements, it is entitled to claim and exercise exclusive jurisdiction in that territory, and to be recognized by all other Grand Lodges. All subordinate lodges there, should surrender their original charters and yield allegiance to the new Grand Lodge, as soon as their parent Grand Lodge has recognized the new Grand Lodge, but they are not bound to do so until their parent Grand Lodges have so acted. If the lodges in Hawaii recognize ‘three black balls and admit to Masonry candidates who are physically disqualified,’ it is not only the right, but the duty of the Grand Lodge of California to refuse recognition, and to continue Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, on its registry.”

We agree with Brother Inglesby as to the right of three chartered Lodges, in a territory where there is no Grand Lodge, to organize an Independent Grand Lodge, and also that all Lodges in such territory *should* transfer their allegiance to the new Grand Lodge, so soon as it shall have been recognized by their parent Grand Lodge. We cannot admit,

however, that there is any law or custom which would compel them to do so, whether the parent Grand Lodge has or has not recognized the new Grand Lodge. We submit, too, that should a Grand Lodge be formed in Hawaii which permitted three black balls to reject candidates, etc., the Grand Lodge of California—or any other Grand Lodge interested—might endorse the action of its subordinates in refusing to join the new Grand Lodge, but would have no ground upon which to deny recognition to the new Grand Lodge. The Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, and of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, state that three black balls shall exclude a candidate (although in the former, Lodges may fix a number less than three), and we have not heard that there has been any objection to these Grand Lodges on that account.

Brother Inglesby does not believe in legislation against liquor-sellers; disapproves of "Army Lodges;" objects to "forced membership," as in Idaho, and thinks that the penalty for non-payment of dues should be erasure and not suspension, as the former terminates membership, while dues continue to accrue during suspension. On the latter point we beg to differ from Brother Inglesby. We do not believe that dues should be charged against a Brother who is suspended for *any* reason.

Brother Inglesby does not hesitate to express his opinion on the late war against Spain, and clearly believes that philanthropic motives had very little to do with it. "The down-trodden and oppressed Cuban," he thinks, is a negligible quantity the real *motif* of the war being a desire for the acquisition of Cuba. He alludes to the matter in several places, and under New Jersey, says:

"The Annual Address of course alludes to 'the tocsin of war,' and the tramp of thousands of our brave soldiers gathered together, 'not to repel an invading foe, but to liberate and set free an oppressed and starving people.' As we have elsewhere and repeatedly said, this is all rhetoric. The fact is, that Spain had for centuries oppressed and mis-managed Cuba, and its mongrel and wretched people. We needed Cuba for political and commercial reasons, and we have taken it. That is all. The United States would have bought Cuba, but the fool Spaniards wouldn't sell, so we took 't anyway. In a personal transaction this would be very dishonest, but history demonstrates that with nations, 'might is right.' The diplomats never *say* so, but they always *act* so. We have only done what England did in India, tried to do in America, and is now trying to do in South Africa."

We venture to point out to our Brother that the case is a little different in South Africa.

In chronicling the doings of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Brother Inglesby notes that the Grand Master, Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, K.C.M.G., presided, and asks what the letters "K.C.M.G." stand for. Doubtless Brother Inglesby has been enlightened ere this, but we venture to tell him that they indicate that Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott is a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

He notes that in Oklahoma, in the absence of the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, a Past Master may open the Lodge and may invite any Master Mason (member of such Lodge) to preside, and says that this is going further than he ever heard of before. Well, they have a similar law in Tennessee, Brother Inglesby, except that in that Jurisdiction in the absence of the Master and Wardens the right to open the Lodge devolves upon the members in order of seniority.

We have derived much pleasure and a great deal of profit from the reading of this excellent report, and trust Brother Inglesby may long "continue in well-doing."

Chartered Lodges, 183; Lodges under dispensation, 2; members, 6,056.

M. W. Orlando Sheppard, Grand Master.

R. W. Charles Inglesby, Grand Secretary.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

25th Annual Communication.

Yorkton.

13th June, 1899.

British Columbia represented by M. W. Thomas H. Brown.

The Grand Master delivered an Address of some thirty-four pages in length. He states that twenty-five years ago the Grand Lodge was formed in the village of Vermillion by the representatives of six Lodges. To-day they number ninety-three Lodges and are still growing.

He records eleven decisions, all but two of which were approved by the Grand Lodge.

1. Ballot must be taken even if report of committee is unfavorable.
2. In the absence of the warrant officers of a lodge the Junior Past Master may open the lodge and transact its business. Dispensation is unnecessary.
6. Jurisdiction over rejected material while continuing to reside within the State is perpetual, another lodge may acquire jurisdiction only by securing waiver from the rejecting lodge.
7. A deformed man is ineligible to the degrees.

The decisions to which the Committee on Jurisprudence take exception are Nos. 2 and 6. Of these decisions the Committee say:

"It has always been the law of this Jurisdiction, and is the law in nearly every Jurisdiction, that no one except the Worshipful Master or the Senior or Junior Warden can open a lodge, and in the absence of all of the three principal officers the lodge cannot be opened.

"The subject of jurisdiction over rejected material has been so fully settled, affirmed and re-affirmed, that we cannot approve the decision numbered 6. We believe perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material wrong in principle and pernicious in practice."

The dispensations issued were few, and include only two to enable Lodges to confer degrees out of time. The Committee on Jurisprudence state their disapproval of such dispensations on principle, but admit that under the circumstances (one Brother leaving for South Africa and the other for India), they were excusable.

The Grand Master refused several similar applications; also an application to allow a petition for affiliation to be ballotted for at an Emergent Meeting, and one to allow a Lodge to participate in a funeral conducted by the Knights Templar. He also refused a dispensation for a new Lodge, believing that the proposed location was too near an already existing Lodge.

From his visits to the Lodges, and from the reports of his officers, the Grand Master finds several things that need remedying. Among these are non-payment of dues, which he thinks is largely due to the neglect of Secretaries; non-affiliation, which he concludes might be largely remedied if members of the Lodges displayed more interest in this class; intemperance, which should be dealt with in a firm manner; want of interest in the meetings, and lastly, want of qualifications in the officers. His remarks on the last subject are so apposite that we venture to quote them.

"It is a very poor rule to elect those to fill important positions such as W.M., who expect to learn the work after their installation. As a usual thing it is not learned and the craft suffers by the unfitness of the presiding officer.

"Too often it is the case that some brother, a very good fellow, friendly with everybody and hail fellow well met, is elected to this position simply because socially he is 'in the swim.' No account is taken of his qualifications for doing the work or his knowledge of Masonic jurisprudence."

The condition of the Craft in the Jurisdiction is excellent, and they are at peace with all sister Grand Lodges. The Grand Master gives a short *resume* of the position of Negro Masonry, as brought up by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and expresses his disapproval of the course pursued by that Grand Lodge. He recommends that Peru be again granted recognition, having restored the Great Light to its altars.

Referring to the number of suspensions, which he thinks is too large, he says that in his opinion it might be reduced by more care in the selection of material. His very appropriate remarks are these:

"It is not the quantity of members you should look for, but the quality. I venture to suggest that if you look closely into the records of many of those dimitted and suspended, you will find quite a number who become members through unworthy motives, hence the large totals of dimissions and suspensions. You can remedy this by scrutinizing closely the material that present themselves for initiation and thus save a continuance of the evil."

The Committee on Jurisprudence take up the matter of Negro Masonry, and, while admiring the ability of the Washington Brethren who drew up the now famous report, affirm their belief that all so-called Negro Lodges and Grand Lodges are clandestine. They say:

"The right to make Masons of any persons found worthy, regardless of creed or color, is not only not denied by this Committee, but affirmed as an unalterable landmark of Masonry. It rests with the lodge receiving the petition to accept or reject. The inherent right of the lodge in this cannot be questioned, *nor can the legal right of the Grand Lodge of Washington in adopting the resolution in question.*

"Unfortunately, however, we are confronted with conditions, not theories, and as we are unable to alter the former, we must govern our actions by them. We therefore most strongly enter our protest against the action of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Washington in the recognition of clandestine Masons and the logical recognition thereby of the clandestine bodies under and by which they claim fellowship.

We most earnestly and fraternally request a full reconsideration of the subject and its disposal by a revocation of its action so that peace and harmony, the essentials to Masonic life and prosperity, may be restored, and Grand Lodges and the fraternity throughout the land again dwell together in unity." (Italics ours.)

This, as has been noted, is the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Organization of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, and was the occasion of suitable exercises on the evening of the first day of the session. The volume of the Proceedings is embellished this year, too, with handsome half-tone portraits of all their Past Grand Masters (with, we believe, one exception); of M. W. Theo. S. Parvin, of Iowa, who organized the Grand Lodge; with group portraits of the officers of the first and of the last Grand Lodges, and with pictures of the building at Elk Point, where the convocation to organize the Grand Lodge was held and of the church at Vermillion where the Grand Lodge was constituted.

A very pleasing "Episode" occurred towards the close of the session, when the Grand Master called to the chair M. W. Brother T. S. Parvin, who, in a few well-chosen remarks, presented M. W. Brother Blatt, on behalf of Grand Lodge, with a testimonial in the shape of a handsome timepiece.

The very able Report on Foreign Correspondence is again by M. W. William Blatt—his sixteenth, and for a time, at all events, his last. He introduces his review of the different Grand Lodges by a short *resume* of the various topics of interest now before the Masonic world. These include Negro Masonry, George Washington, the *Gran Dieta*, and the Grand Lodge of Peru. On all these subjects our M. W. Brother manifests a broadness of view and soundness of judgment much to be commended. He believes that while the Grand Lodge of Washington has erred,

"those Grand Lodges and Grand Masters who have legislated or edicted the Grand Lodge of Washington and her five thousand Masons out of the Fraternity, are guilty of an uncourteous, nay, more, guilty of an unfraternal, and we shall always believe, an unmasonic act."

Of the *Gran Dieta* he says:

"The rush of American Grand Lodges to recognize the *Gran Dieta* has ceased. The vast majority of Grand Lodges who failed to join the race may congratulate themselves for the exercise of caution. The year past has added nothing which would justify recognition. On the contrary, continued and aggravated disharmony, charges and counter-charges, plots and counter-plots are the prevailing conditions in our

sister Republic. We cannot but hope, sincerely hope, for a betterment of conditions and watch for it with deep anxiety."

He is also lenient in his views as to the Grand Lodge of Peru. He thinks that in Catholic countries the Bible occupies a different position to what it does in our own and concludes that a more charitable view of the action of that Grand Lodge would, at least, not have been out of place.

British Columbia for 1898 receives our brother's courteous attention. He justifies M. W. Brother McLaren's decision *re* the residence of a candidate, and concludes that "Circumstances in cases of this nature should govern, and doubtless did in this instance."

The whole report is an exceedingly interesting document, and we regret that want of space prevents a more extended notice. It is with regret, too, that we say farewell, or, let us hope, *adieu*, to Brother Blatt, whose writings have stamped him as one of the foremost of the great guild of reviewers.

Ninety-three Lodges; 4,437 members.

M. W. William H. Roddle, Grand Master.

R. W. Geo. A. Pettigrew, Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE.

86th Annual Communication.

Nashville.

31st January, 1900.

Upon opening this volume we find excellent portraits of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Josiah H. Bullock, and of the present Grand Master, M. W. J. H. McClister.

The former delivered an address narrating briefly his official acts. He refrains from any lengthy peroration for two reasons; first, because he says it would necessitate a discussion of the twentieth century question, though we fail to see the necessity, and secondly, because after reading the Addresses of other Grand Masters he came to the conclusion that "There is no new thing under the sun."

He chronicles the death of R. W. Brother Charles M. Carroll, Senior Grand Warden, and of W. Brother William C. Smith, Past Grand Marshal, both of whom will be much missed. A long list of dispensations issued is given, none, we are glad to say, to confer degrees out of time. In accord-

ance with the action of Grand Lodge last year, the Grand Master requested an exchange of representatives with those Jurisdictions with which they are on friendly terms. In the list of Representatives near other Grand Lodges, we note the name of W. Brother Raymer, of Rossland, as the Representative of Tennessee near this Grand Lodge.

Convinced that at least some of the Craft in Washington are honest in their intentions, the Grand Master recommends the restoration of fraternal relations with that Grand Lodge. The following feeble sarcasm is thrown at the head of M.W. Brother Upton:

"That he is a great man no one can doubt, for he admits it himself. My sympathies are extended to the Corps Reportorial, and to this new correspondent I recommended a careful study and personal application of a line from Brother Robert Burns:

"'Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us.'"

"This brother really has qualifications for an entertaining, instructive Reporter, and if he will give his attention to the legitimate questions for discussion, I predict for him a brilliant career."

We fail to see the reason for this unkind attack. Brother Upton is a thoroughly well-posted Mason—better posted, in fact, than most of his critics—and has the courage to express his views. The "Corps Reportorial" need no sympathy from anyone because Judge Upton has become a member thereof, rather it is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of so able a writer.

The decisions rendered do not call for notice, except Nos. 7 and 8, which are as follows:

7. Is a man with left hand off between wrist and elbow eligible to receive the degrees?

Answer—Yes; if otherwise worthy and qualified.

8. Is a man with only one leg eligible?

Answer—No.

Why one should be taken and the other left is beyond our comprehension.

"Non-affiliates," the Grand Master says, "like the poor, we have always with us." He thinks the way to bring them back is to make the Lodge attractive—to have "good nice carpets and chairs, and pictures on the walls; elect officers who are acquainted with English grammar and rhe-

toric." This is very good sensible advice, and together with a little personal persuasion, which the Grand Master also recommends, should produce good results. At the same time, if, as he says, the Brother left because some one was elected Master instead of him, it is not likely he will do much good anyway, and may as well be let where he is.

The Grand Master makes the very sensible suggestion that their law which makes certain officers ineligible for re-election be repealed. He is also impressed with the idea that the Grand Master should hold office for a longer time than one year. We have long been of the same opinion, and it is evident to anyone who has considered the matter that just when a Grand Master begins to understand the duties of his office, he has, as a rule, to hand the reins over to his successor.

The Board of Control of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home submitted a very interesting report. Several improvements have been made about the premises during the year—two of them, a steam laundry plant, and a bakery having been donated. The average number of inmates was 108.25, and the daily *per capita* cost 69.13 cents. The Endowment fund of the Home amounts to \$4,082.66, which is drawing interest at 3 *per cent*.

British Columbia was represented on this occasion by Brother J. C. Cawood.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, by M.W. Brother Geo. H. Morgan, is a very entertaining and instructive review. Brother Morgan approves of legislation against liquor-sellers. He censures the Grand Lodge of Canada for having expressed approval of the action of Washington *re* Negro Masonry. We think that if Brother Morgan will read the Proceedings of Canada again, he will see that the only reference to the subject is in quite a different tone to what his remarks would imply.

He is no admirer of the cipher ritual. As he says,

"The system is wrong, and will work harm wherever in vogue,
... Keep the ritual in the memory of the brethren."

Right you are, Brother Morgan.

British Columbia for 1899 receives a courteous notice, M.W. Brother Wilson's decisions being quoted with approval.

The Lodges on the roll number 429, with 17,221 members, a loss of 27.

M.W. Jas. H. McClister, Grand Master.

R.W. John B. Garrett, Grand Secretary.

TEXAS.

64th Annual Communication.

Houston.

6th December, 1899.

With the handsome volume containing the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge come half-tone pictures of the Masonic Temple at Houston and of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home at Fort Worth. There are also portraits of M.W. Brother Franklin Barlow Sexton, who was Grand Master in 1856, and who is their oldest living Past Grand Master, and of M.W. Robert Moriss Elgin, who was Grand Master in 1865.

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Fort Worth on the 7th of January, 1899, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home.

The address, which the Grand Master read, at the Annual Communication, covers some forty-five pages of the Proceedings. He extends a warm welcome to the assembled Brethren, and reminds them that individually and collectively they are makers of history. It therefore behooves them to remember the responsibilities resting upon them. The history of Masonry in Texas, the Grand Master states, is inseparably interwoven with the history of the State. "Masonry furnished to Texas its founder and its liberator." Parts of the State have suffered from floods and other parts from droughts, notwithstanding which, Masonry in the State is making substantial progress. Greater care is being exercised in the selection of material, and more interest is being manifested in learning the ritual. Materially, the prospects are equally encouraging. Many of the Lodges are acquiring property and erecting Halls, and improvements in the finishing of the Lodge-rooms is also noted.

The Grand Lodge suffered a severe loss in the death of M.W. Brother Alfred S. Richardson, who was a prominent citizen and an enthusiastic Mason.

Thirteen Lodges received their charters and four were organized under dispensation. Several matters calling for discipline engaged the attention of the Grand Master, all of which (except one, which was referred to the incoming Grand Master,) received careful consideration and were amicably settled. A number of dispensations were granted, including three for the conferring of degrees out of time. In one of these cases the applicant was a sea captain, and as "Several months were spent in the investigation of the question," one would almost imagine that the candidate might have had the degrees conferred in the regular way. The Grand Master refused to grant three dispensations for new Lodges; two to confer degrees—in one instance the candidate being disqualified by the loss of two fingers; and two to lay corner-stones—the structures in question being frame buildings and about completed. Several other applications for dispensations were refused, in each of which instances the Grand Master appears to have exercised a wise discretion.

Of the many questions submitted to him the Grand Master selects forty-three with their answers for embodiment in his Address. The following are some of them:

5. A Chinaman desires to petition for degrees. What shall we do? Held that Masonry is not prescriptive as to nationality; that Sec. 7, Art. V., Chap. 5, Constitution, is the fundamental law governing applicants, and that the term "residence" is fully defined in Art. 470.

The Grand Lodge has wisely left the question of desirability and selection of material, in this respect, to the arbitrament of the ballot.

2. A subordinate lodge in this Jurisdiction cannot confer a degree as "proxy" for a lodge in another Jurisdiction. An E.A. or F.C. moving into our state, and desiring advancement, cannot be passed or raised until an unqualified waiver of jurisdiction is secured from his former lodge, and the regulation regarding residence had been met. The same would hold if he were to move from one lodge to another in this state, and desire advancement.

14. A brother living in the jurisdiction of lodge No. 768, has a dimit from a lodge in another State, but cannot prove himself by the infallible tests of the order. The lodge that dimitted him first conferred upon him the E.A. degree. He then moved into the jurisdiction of another lodge, and it conferred the second and third degrees upon him as "proxy" for the original lodge, and issued a "certificate" of the fact, upon the strength of which, the first lodge granted him a dimit, and he came to Texas. He now presents to Lodge No. 768 both the certificate and the dimit, and asks to be recognized as a Master Mason, but cannot prove himself. It is asked, "What shall we do?"

Answer—The possession of a dimit by a properly identified brother is some evidence of his being a Mason, but *not conclusive*. Unless such a brother can produce a "voucher," or prove himself, he cannot be so recognized. The case in hand is but another forcible illustration of the evils resulting from this "proxy" system of conferring degrees, tolerated by some Grand Lodges, but prohibited by ours.

16. Can a Mason, who has sat in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons with a brother, legally vouch for him in a Master Masons' Lodge on that account only? Answer—He cannot. Article 382 prohibits it, and prescribes the only legal grounds for avouchment.

36. Is dealing in "Cotton Futures" gambling, in a Masonic sense? Answer—The question raised is one over which Masonry does not propose to exercise any jurisdiction. I informed the Master making the inquiry that Masonry cannot afford to either prescribe or proscribe in reference to business or avocation; but that it can rid itself of a member when his conduct becomes immoral and obnoxious to its principles. That, in the main, we deal with individual acts, and are not dogmatic in reference to business matters.

Texas is one of the few Grand Lodges which refuses to allow its Lodges to confer degrees at the request of each other, or of Lodges in other Jurisdictions. We do not think the "proxy system," as the Grand Master calls it, is to blame for the state of things mentioned in decision No. 14. We have seen many Masons initiated, passed, and raised in the one Lodge who were unable to "prove themselves." The trouble, we think, arises from the fact that the Lodge which conferred the degrees did not do its duty and instruct the Brother in the work.

No. 16 is common sense, and should be good law anywhere. No. 36 we commend to those Grand Lodges which have decided that certain businesses disqualify a man for membership in the Institution.

The Grand Master is pleased to report that fraternal relations had been resumed with Cuba; he throws cold water on the "Supreme Grand Lodge" idea, and congratulates the fraternity upon the completion of the "Widows' and Orphans' Home." The evil of non-payment of dues and non-affiliation come in for notice. The former he considers due to the carelessness of Secretaries and lack of business methods in managing the affairs of the Lodges. The latter, he thinks, may not be altogether the fault of the non-affiliated Brethren. We copy part of what he says on the subject, and especially commend the remedy mentioned in the last sentence as likely to prove more efficacious than the severe measures occasionally adopted.

"These (the non-affiliates) perhaps, are not alone to blame for the abnormal condition they sustain to Masonry. It is probable we do not extend to them that brotherly sympathy and fraternal courtesy that they, as "new comers," have the right to expect, and this naturally estranges them. In fact, it cools their ardor, and by degrees they become indifferent.

Being already Masons, and it being their duty to affiliate, it is perfectly proper—in fact, our duty—to show them brotherly consideration, if they are worthy of such, and invite them to put in their applications for affiliation. My attention has been called to an excellent plan adopted by Harmony Lodge, No. 6, which has a committee whose duty it is to especially look after Masons, not members, which has had a splendid effect, resulting in a great increase of membership during this year, and a corresponding reduction in the number of non-affiliates."

The Board of Directors of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home report the completion of the building at a total cost of \$46,641.82. The assets of the Home, including invested money, amount to \$17,087.91. The building was opened on the 9th of October, 1899, and gives a home to thirty children, ten more being expected shortly. This will about use up their accommodation until they have added a dormitory which will provide accommodation for another hundred, including several widows.

A further consideration of the "Negro question" by the committee which dealt with it last year, resulted in the conclusion that the resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge of Washington in 1899 do not repeal the obnoxious resolutions of 1898. The committee therefore recommends that what he calls "the *statu quo*," be maintained, in which the Grand Lodge concurred.

An exceedingly interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence is furnished by Brother Thos. M. Matthews, Sr., who, in his usual courteous manner, reviews the doings of fifty other Grand Lodges.

Commenting upon the action of the Grand Lodge of Michigan in "breathing out threatenings and slaughter" against those having "keys" in their possession, "after the Grand Lodge had authorized the issuance of a ritual to each Lodge to enable it to learn and practice the esoteric work of the order," Brother Matthews says:

"We are not going to defend this 'cipher and key' business, for, in every shape, form or fashion, we are 'dead agin it,' as one of our good old brothers would put it. But right here and now, before we forget it, we want to ask: Is it any more a violation of Masonic law, land-

marks or obligations, or is it any worse for an *individual* brother to engage in or go into such a business than it is for a Grand Lodge? In our honest opinion, *no, surely*. But if so, wherefore? Will some good brother please tell us? We say in all earnestness and kindness to our brethren of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, '*Cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.*' Don't brethren—don't condemn the poor brother for doing the very thing you have yourselves taught him to do, by first setting the example. How should he think he was doing wrong by following the lead of those to whom he naturally looked for counsel and advice?"

These are our sentiments to a dot. We see no difference in this respect a Grand Lodge or a Grand Lodge officer and the youngest Entered Apprentice. If it is wrong for one it is wrong for the other.

British Columbia for 1899 receives a courteous notice of over two pages in length. M.W. Brother Wilson's Address is noticed in length and is generally commended. For his kind expressions concerning our individual efforts, we offer Brother Matthews our hearty thanks. He does not believe, however, that the Negro is the equal of the white man, and frankly says that should a regularly made Negro Mason (say from Canada), present himself to one of their Lodges for admission, he would doubtless be kept out. Yet we are told that race and color play no part in the consideration of the Negro question.

Lodges, 638; members, 28,141.

M.W. R. M. Lush, Grand Master.

R.W. John Watson, Grand Secretary.

UTAH.

28th Annual Communication.

Ogden.

18th January, 1900.

A fine portrait of the Grand Master, M.W. Brother George Viall Schramm, faces the title page, and is accompanied by a brief sketch of the distinguished Brother's life and career.

Before the Grand Lodge was formally opened, an Address of welcome was presented by W. Brother Isaac N. Fulton, on behalf of the Masons of Ogden.

The Representative of British Columbia was not present, being detained by professional engagements.

The Address of Grand Master James D. Murdock is not so long as some, but covers practically all the ground. The usual expressions of welcome and congratulation are found, and we are informed that

"As the time draws near when the clash of arms will no longer be heard in the far-off islands of the seas, over which now the glorious flag of our country waves—and let us hope will forever wave—and the mild dominion of peace is about to be established among their heretofore, bleeding inhabitants, who for centuries have lain in chains which have been welded around their bodies and souls by tyrannical kings and a cruel priesthood; and as these people will soon be subjects of our free American government, we as Freemasons, have on these isles an important work to accomplish in planting the blue flag of Masonry side by side with the Stars and Stripes, and in teaching the people there, by precept and example that education and love is our aim, and that we foster that state of harmony which should characterize the American people."

Unfortunately the Phillipinos do not seem to appreciate the blessings of "free American government" for which they never asked, nor the "education and love" which are forced upon them *vi et armis*.

A member of Grand Lodge was "called home" in the person of Brother M. J. Carbis, Past Grand Junior Deacon, who is affectionately remembered.

No question of law was submitted for the Grand Master's decision, a fact which he attributes to their excellent new code. The dispensation for one Lodge was continued; several visits were made, the Grand Master being agreeably surprised at the number present on these occasions; only one special dispensation was issued, and this by telegraph from St. Louis. One might ask where the Deputy Grand Master was, and what his functions are during the absence of the Grand Master from the Jurisdiction.

The Grand Master recommends that the recent action of Washington be considered as complying with their request; is strongly opposed to the idea of a General Grand Lodge, and says:

"I trust no other attempt of the kind will be made again, because such a Masonic Grand body as proposed by him (the Grand Master of Wyoming) will never materialize."

Such a body may never materialize, but that is not to say that M.W. Brother Rumsey's idea is not a good one. We can—or think we can—see several directions in which a General Grand Lodge would be of distinct advantage to the Craft.

The Masonic Board of Relief received during the year \$723.33, of which they expended in charity \$349.00. The office expenses of the Board were \$66.95, leaving on hand a balance of \$307.38.

On the favorable report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, recognition was extended to the Grand Orient of Belgium.

At the close of the Communication a reception was tendered by the Brethren of Ogden, which was a most delightful and successful affair. The presence of the fair sex, added to the voluptuous strains of the orchestra so carried away the Brethren that even the venerable Grand Secretary forgot his 70 years and joined in "tripping the light fantastic."

The Report on Foreign Correspondence—as usual by R. W. Brother Chris Diehl—needs no praise from us. "Good wine needs no bush." It is a most interesting review of the work of fifty-six Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1899. M.W. Brother Wilson's Address is characterized as "A mighty strong and sensible Masonic paper." Of his remarks on the subject of Negro Masonry Brother Diehl says:

"What he does say is thoroughly Masonic, and expressed in the language of a gentleman."

Of our especial work Brother Diehl is good enough to say several nice things, for which we thank him. Referring to our opinion that a man with a stiff knee cannot conform substantially to the forms of Masonry, he says:

"It is the heart, good brother, that makes the Mason, not the knee. God will listen to his prayers when offered in a standing position."

We hope He will, Brother Diehl, and that a man's prayers would be listened to by the Almighty if he had no knees, but if a man with a stiff knee is admitted to the Institution, where is the line to be drawn?

Nine Chartered Lodges and one Under Dispensation;
members, 867.

M.W. George Viall Schramm, Grand Master.

R.W. Christopher Diehl, Grand Secretary.

VERMONT.

106th Annual Communication.

Burlington.

14th June, 1899.

A handsome portrait of M.W. Brother D. N. Nicholson, and a biographical sketch of the distinguished Brother, form an introduction to the volume of Proceedings.

At the Annual Communication British Columbia was not represented.

The Grand Master's Address is a lengthy document, taking up some fifty-seven pages of the Proceedings; its length being largely due to the fact that considerable official correspondence is introduced. He rejoices that their official circle remains unbroken, but is mindful of the fact that other Jurisdictions have not been so fortunate. He touches upon the subject of Negro Masonry, but had not considered it necessary to enter into any correspondence in the matter with the Grand Master of Washington, or of other Jurisdictions. It afforded him much pleasure to renew friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru.

The decisions recorded by the Grand Master are as follows:

1. It is not proper for a lodge to request an applicant for restoration to apply for a dimit in case he is restored to membership.
2. A petition for the degrees or for membership, should not be returned to the applicant in case he is rejected. In many instances the report of the investigating committee is on the back of the petition, and would disclose to the applicant the action of that committee as well as the names of the members of the committee. The petition, when received by the lodge, becomes the property of the lodge and should be filed in the archives for reference.
3. A member of a lodge who is sixty years of age, or at any other age, is not exempt from dues, unless the by-laws of the lodge so provide.

4. It is not proper for the W.M. to allow any brother to enter or retire from the lodge, nor to declare the lodge at rest, giving the brethren the liberty of speech and of passing about the hall during the balloting for a candidate for the degrees or for admission; nor can any other business be transacted until after the ballot is closed. If the number of ballots in the box proves to be insufficient, the W.M. should substitute something that cannot be mistaken, for the white ball and the black cube, and proceed with the ballot without other interruption.

5. If a brother, against whom charges have been preferred for un-masonic conduct, is a travelling man, or is otherwise engaged, so that the Secretary of a lodge does not know when he will be at his home, it would be legal service if the Secretary delivers an attested copy of the accusation and citation at the accused brother's residence "at least 14 days previous to the time appointed for the trial of the accused, if he resides within ten miles of the lodge."

No. 5 was not approved by the Grand Lodge, the Committee on Jurisprudence stating that the present By-law adequately provided for such cases.

The Grand Master recommended that it be definitely decided who are Past Masters. It was accordingly made a standing resolution that a Master re-elected to the chair does not become a Past Master until he vacates the office. We prefer our own rule, which is to the effect that a Master who serves one term as such ranks as a Past Master.

Four Special Communications were held during the year—in each instance to dedicate a Masonic Hall; "unauthorized books" are condemned, partly because they tend to destroy the uniformity of work, and partly because they interfere with the profits which the Grand Lodge derives from its own traffic in cipher rituals.

The Grand Master deals at some length with the financial side of the Masonic Temple, which, it appears, is now in a fairly satisfactory condition. He states that after the indebtedness on the building is wiped out, the revenue from rents, &c., will be devoted to charitable purposes, and goes on to say:

"In the first place, the Grand Lodge of Vermont is the source from which all the subordinate lodges in the State have emanated and to whom every lodge and every Mason belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction owes allegiance. Then every dollar now expended by the subordinate lodges for charitable purposes is primarily the gift of the Grand Lodge, and would not be so expended were it not for the existence of that Grand body."

The assertion that every Lodge in the State owes allegiance to the Grand Lodge is doubtless true, but if all the Lodges in the State have emanated from the Grand Lodge the course of events in Vermont has been different from that in most Jurisdictions. It is usually the case that the Grand Lodge emanates from, and is composed of representatives of the subordinate Lodges. The idea that every dollar spent in charity by the subordinate Lodges is really the gift of the Grand Lodge, is, we think, rather new, too. It would be nearer the mark to say that all money spent in charity by the Grand Lodge is really the gift of the Lodges.

The Committee on Grievances enjoyed a sincere, nothing having required their attention.

Upon the favorable report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, recognition was extended to the Grand Orient of Belgium, and friendly relations were resumed with Peru. The Committee on the "Washington Resolution" state that these resolutions are a direct blow to Grand Lodge sovereignty, and upon this ground they recommend Grand Lodge to suspend fraternal relations with Washington.

The Proceedings of fifty-four Grand Lodges are reviewed by M.W. Marsh O. Perkins, including British Columbia for 1898. M.W. Brother McLaren's decision *re* residence is dissented from, and our District Deputy Grand Masters are complimented upon the quality of their work.

For his kind expressions concerning our work, Brother Perkins has our sincere thanks. With most of our expressed opinions he apparently agrees, and thinks that by this time we have learned "the American doctrine of Grand Lodge Jurisdiction." Well, we have, Brother Perkins, but we have not yet learned that it is as one of the laws of the Medes and Persians. So far as we have read, it consists in a declaration by each Grand Lodge "That there can be but one Supreme Masonic body within the same governmental limits." Surely, then, a Grand Lodge which enacts such a law—or makes such a declaration—does so for its own Jurisdiction only, and being a "Supreme" authority, can repeal the enactment if and when it sees fit.

We are glad that Vermont is not a Jurisdiction where the powers of the Master of a Lodge are, in his absence, delegated to "the members in order of seniority." Brother At-

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122nd Annual Com

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kinson, of West Virginia, is kindly looking the matter up for us, but we have not heard yet that he has found one, outside of Tennessee, where the practice prevails.

Lodges, 102; membership, 10,166; gain, 280.

M.W. W. Scott May, Grand Master.

R.W. Warren G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary.

VIRGINIA.

122nd Annual Communication.

Alexandria.

13th December, 1899.

From the fact that at this Annual Communication the services in commemoration of the death of the illustrious George Washington were held, the occasion was of more than usual interest. Besides the Grand Officers and representatives of Lodges, there were present special Representatives of most of the Grand Lodges of the United States, and many from Canada and Jurisdictions beyond the sea. Unfortunately, however, British Columbia was not represented in any way.

After Grand Lodge had been formally opened, each distinguished visitor was called upon, and in a few felicitous remarks expressed the pleasure he felt at being present.

The Grand Master refers, in his opening remarks, to the occasion which has brought them together—the commemoration of the death of W. Brother George Washington, and regrets that some few of the American Grand Lodges did not find it convenient to be represented.

Several corner-stones were laid—a departure from the usual custom being made when the Grand Lodge was convened to lay the corner-stone of the Southern Railway Passenger Depot at Danville. With the decisions reported, the Committee on the Grand Master's Address found no fault, and neither do we, with the possible exception of No. 6, the reason for which is not apparent. Neither do we see what the question of citizenship has to do with the opinion expressed in No. 7.

2. A corner-stone cannot be laid on Sunday. No Masonic work can be done upon Sunday, and the laying of a corner-stone is actual work. . . .

5. A dimit, when granted, cannot be reconsidered at a subsequent meeting of the lodge. The dimitted brother must apply for membership.

6. Two lodges cannot consolidate.

7. . . . Virginia declines to hold to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, a doctrine which, in my judgment, is illogical and unreasonable. When a man becomes a citizen of Virginia he is entitled to all the privileges of citizenship. When one of our own citizens can renew an application twelve months after it is rejected in a lodge in our own State, why should we refuse the equal benefit of the law to one whose citizenship makes him entitled to all the benefits of our laws? . . .

9. Any Mason, whether a member of the lodge or not, has the right, with the permission of the Worshipful Master, to state his reasons in open lodge why a petition for initiation ought not to be favorably acted upon.

10. The titles "Worshipful" and "Right Worshipful" do not cease with the occupancy of the office to which they belong, but having once attached continue to be applied to the person who has once obtained them, provided the full official term is served out.

The second day of the session was devoted to the memorial services, the proceedings being given in full.

On the third day the regular routine of business was resumed. Charters were granted to seven new Lodges; four dispensations were continued, and one was withdrawn. The rest of the business of the session was of local interest only.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is a very interesting paper from the pen of M.W. Brother Joseph W. Eggleston. No list of Grand Lodges reviewed is given, but the writer of the Report states that "The Proceedings of Manitoba, Maryland, New Foundland, and Victoria have not been received." We were not aware that a Grand Lodge as yet existed in New Foundland.

Commenting on the dimit without a recommendatory certificate, as used in Arizona, Brother Eggleston says:

"The result is of no special interest to us, but the case shows that in the West Lodge membership has been exaggerated in importance, probably in imitation of some modern organizations. Our old-fashioned way of allowing a Mason to apply by verbal application to any lodge for membership, and to belong to as many lodges at the same time as he chooses, works perfectly without friction or trouble, though it may not be in keeping with the ideas of mutual benefit societies, or trades unions. We do not even allow a membership fee charged. What harm it can do any one lodge for each of its members to at the same time hold membership in other lodges is simply, to a Virginia Mason, incomprehensible."

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There are others besides Virginia Masons who see no harm in dual membership. It is the custom in England, at least, and in the opinion of this writer, if a Brother wishes, and can afford, to belong to a dozen different Lodges there is no good reason, Masonic or otherwise, why he should not.

In his review of British Columbia (for 1899) Brother Eggleston thinks that we would get along much better without any Constitution, and we are inclined to agree with him. We have no hesitation in at least saying that we have too much Constitution. His remarks on this subject are as follows:

"He (the Grand Master of British Columbia) hampered by a 'Constitution,' debates the question as to what a dispensation really is. Well, if Masonry is to become everywhere a modern society governed, not by a blending of King Solomon's wisdom and power with pure democracy, but by organic law or 'Constitution,' a 'dispensation' would have simply no meaning at all. The word plainly means a 'dispensing' with a provision of law when special circumstances render it necessary. The only reason for our blending of autocratic with democratic government is in memory of the same blending which existed when the Temple was built. The three Grand Masters, the only Master Masons living, jointly exercised general power as our Master Masons in Grand Lodge assembled do, but would any sane Mason imagine that King Solomon would have hesitated, in an emergency, to 'dispense' with the action of any of their laws, and, as the word plainly means, set it aside. The laws made by these three Grand Masters were general in their nature, but not necessarily so specific or elaborate as to properly cover every possible case; therefore they could be set aside temporarily by proper authority and ours should be the same way. We have in the landmarks enough fixed, immutable, organic law, and we have only been, in some instances, misled by the name Constitution. Many jurisdictions calling their law a Constitution do not set it up as sacred and inviolable, but countenance the Grand Master's right to 'dispense' with it in his discretion. It should be given some other name on this continent, simply because the word Constitution has with us come to mean far more than it does in England. Call it a methodical digest of laws of the Grand Lodge, make it binding except when 'dispensed' with by authority of King Solomon's successor, and it at once becomes a useful thing instead of a terror. Besides, the office of Grand Master and its relation to the Craft typifies, as we have frequently said, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

"If the Western brethren only had our experience in this particular they would clearly see how much better it works. There is no doubt that they will some day come back to ancient usages in this particular."

Brother Eggleston thinks, however, that our rule requiring visitors to produce vouchers is a good one, and one which probably sometimes prevents imposition.

Brother Eggleston deals in a forcible but kindly manner with many of the questions which crop up in a reading of the different Reports, but the exigencies of space prevent a more extended notice of his opinions. In his "Conclusion" he thinks that as most of the "burning questions" are now in a state of quiescence, it is a good time to spring a new one, which he does as follows:

"We claim before the world universality, and teach it to Fellow Crafts in our explanation of the globes without reserve or qualification, and yet it does not exist. Some Grand Lodges, most of them, indeed, work under the York Rite, which is the oldest and most authentic, but there are others whose Symbolic Lodges are working under the more modern Scottish Rite, and whose government is not by Grand Lodges, composed of delegates from the Subordinate Lodges and Past Masters, but by what is called a Supreme Council of Thirty-third Degree Masons. Other Grand Jurisdictions, under the Scottish Rite, have Grand Lodges as the supreme authority, which condition has been brought about by the Supreme Council having surrendered jurisdiction over the three Symbolic degrees. Many Grand Lodges of the York Rite consider this latter class as essentially in accord with themselves, and freely recognize them. Virginia and many others refuse to recognize anything as Masonic except the three Symbolic degrees of Ancient York Masonry, ignoring all so-called higher degrees, by whatever name known, while not objecting to them, and also all degrees, including the first three of the Symbolic degrees, except those of the York Rite. We in Virginia are told by those best informed on the subject, many of whom are among our most distinguished brethren, that the Symbolic degrees of the Scottish Rite are not the same in essential particulars as ours, and they themselves, dignitaries in the numerically higher degrees of the Scottish Rite, are not in favor of the Grand Lodge of Virginia changing her attitude towards Grand Lodges not of the York Rite. Now, the practical result is that a Mason from Europe having never received the York Rite degrees can locate in, say, New York; acquire membership there, where the distinction is not made, and afterwards move to Virginia and join any of our lodges, because we do recognize New York. This of itself shows that the two Rites are not as far apart as were the 'Ancients' and 'Moderns' in England one hundred and twenty years ago, and they came together by the simple measure of the healing of the Moderns by the Ancient. Cannot we, the correspondents, by agitating this matter, induce those Grand Jurisdictions not at present under our Rite to come under it, and thus make us the universal brotherhood we claim to be? Time and distance are rapidly being abolished by science and progress, and the dawn of a new century, so near at hand, is a very fitting time for us to obliterate differences which have been brought about only by a lack of contact. The Scottish Rite is an off-shoot of the York, and so far as the writer is informed the change would be only a returning to the fold of those who have from no fault of their own wandered away. The only difficulty seems to have been the unwillingness of the Supreme Councils to surrender jurisdiction over the Symbolic degrees, and this they now

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do not object to. Of course this movement would in no wise injure the other Scottish Rite bodies, but, by doing away with a cause of offence, strengthen them greatly. They could still take their material as they do now in many jurisdictions from the York lodges, and they gain nothing whatever by having Blue lodges of a Rite different from others. A full, free discussion is most desirable, and these words are intended only as a brief introduction of the subject to the Masonic world. Every correspondent is requested to fully give his views and express his opinion, and may the ultimate result be MASONRY UNIVERSAL."

We are favored with portraits of the present Grand Master, M.W. George W. Wright, and of W. Brother George Washington as Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22.

Two hundred and seventy-five Lodges, with 12,836 members, a decrease of 68.

M.W. George W. Wright, Grand Master.

R.W. George W. Carrington, Grand Secretary.

WASHINGTON.

42nd Annual Communication.

Seattle.

13th June, 1899.

The Grand Master rejoices that prosperity has marked the year, both as a people and as a Fraternity. He mourns the death of one of their best men and brightest Masons, R. W. Harrison W. Egan, Grand Chaplain, who died in office and was buried with appropriate Masonic ceremonies.

Personally, the Grand Master sustained the severe affliction of losing his wife, in the shadow of which trial he not only discharged with fidelity the duties incumbent on him as a high public official and as Grand Master, but found time to prepare the best exposition of the "Negro question" that we have yet seen. To our bereaved Brother we offer our sincere sympathy.

Relations with other Grand Lodges, which at the time of the last Annual Communication were entirely harmonious, have been rudely disturbed. The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in the matter of Negro Masonry caused, as has already been mentioned, quite a severe storm in the American tea cup, and as has been noted in our last Report, and earlier in this, several Grand Lodges have withdrawn

recognition from the Grand Lodge of Washington. The Grand Master notices, somewhat at length, the reports of the various committees of these Grand Lodges. We do not propose to follow them here (as the subject has already been pretty well discussed) further than to say that we, like him, were struck with the extremely courteous and fraternal language used by some writers in the Southern part of the Republic.

An Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Ballard, to lay the corner-stone of the new City Hall. The Grand Master issued dispensations for the formation of two Lodges, and refused permission to confer degrees out of time or to ballot upon a petition in less than the statutory time. His decisions number twenty-one, all of which appear to have been in harmony with the Masonic law of the Jurisdiction. Most of them are of local interest only, but we copy the following:

4. A resident of the jurisdiction of Latah Lodge, made a Mason by Tekoa Lodge in invasion of that jurisdiction, cannot become a member of Latah Lodge, except upon his voluntary petition and after a unanimous ball ballot, after the usual reference, investigation and report.

6. The fact that a Master or Warden has removed to a distant State does not create a vacancy in his office.

7. Where a Senior Warden-elect refuses to be installed, if the former Senior Warden is still a member of the lodge in good standing, and has not been installed into another office, no vacancy exists; but the former Senior Warden remains in office.

8. The facts that a Junior Warden-elect refuses to be installed and that the former Junior Warden has removed from the State, are insufficient in themselves to create a vacancy in that office.

13. The Grand Master has no authority to authorize a lodge to become a corporation.

14. Or to elect a Master or Warden in place of an absent officer.

15. Or to elect a Master or Warden, so long as the lodge has either a Master or one Warden.

18. The indebtedness for which a brother's name be dropped from the roll does not include indebtedness for money loaned him by the lodge.

19. A lodge, when paying a fraternal visit to another lodge, cannot—unless specially thereunto authorized by some clause of its charter—open in the lodge-room of the other lodge and there confer a degree upon one of its own candidates.

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20. A lodge having met Saturday evening cannot "call off" and assemble Monday evening as a part of the same meeting.

21. A one-armed man cannot lawfully be made a Mason.

He also submits a number of *opinions*. There are twenty-five of them—of which we venture to reproduce a few:

2. Where a Minnesota lodge passes and raises an Entered Apprentice by courtesy for one of our lodges, the brother becomes a member of the Washington lodge. Whether he also becomes a member of the Minnesota lodge, depends on the Minnesota law.

10. A candidate was elected to receive the degrees; but subsequently a brother who, as a member of the investigating committee, had reported favorably, and who had cast a white ball, objected to the initiation of the candidate. I advised that the objection must be respected and could not be over-ruled. Also, incidentally, that —

11. The fact that the brother had reported favorably on the candidate did not impair his right to object. It was his duty to so report if he believed the man worthy to be made a Mason, even if he was not willing that he should become a member of that lodge.

12. The fact that he cast a white ball did not impair his right to object. The right to object at any time before initiation is a right, additional to the right to black-ball, which belongs to every member of the lodge. It is a protection to the Fraternity, additional to that of the ballot.

13. The fact that the objector disclosed his reasons for objecting, and that the latter appeared to other brethren frivolous, do not impair the force of the objection. The right of objection before initiation is absolute.

22. The Master of a lodge being absent from the jurisdiction, both Wardens being within the jurisdiction, a number of members of a lodge, including the Junior Warden, but not the Senior Warden, and several other Masons assembled at the lodge-room upon an evening other than the regular meeting night, without the knowledge of the Senior Warden. One of the members, claiming—in good faith, I think, but erroneously—to have been orally authorized thereunto by the Worshipful Master, opened the lodge and conferred the second degree upon an Entered Apprentice, in the presence of the Junior Warden and without objection by him. I advised the brethren, first, that an absent Master cannot authorize any one but a Warden to open a lodge.

23. That the Junior Warden being present, all the proceedings must be presumed to have been by his sanction.

24. That only the presence of the Junior Warden saved the meeting from being that of a clandestine lodge.

25. That the right of the Junior Warden to congregate and open the lodge under the circumstances mentioned is extremely doubtful.

He should have said that the right of the Junior Warden to open the Lodge under the circumstances mentioned above was more than doubtful. We are inclined to agree with Brother Atkinson, of West Virginia, that the Grand Master should have declared the proceedings irregular.

The Grand Master recommends the revision of the burial service, and of the laws against liquor-sellers. With regard to the latter, he thinks that such legislation contravenes two landmarks, in that it prescribes a new qualification for membership, and takes from the Lodges the privilege of saying who shall be members thereof. His views and ours on this subject are the same.

He also recommends a return to the Grand Representative system, which we believe was done, although we do not find any mention of it in the Proceedings.

W. Brother Emmett N. Parker, Acting Grand Orator, delivered an Address on "The Spirit of Masonry," which want of space alone prevents us from noticing further.

A resolution was introduced looking to the recognition of the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, consideration of which was deferred until the next Annual Communication.

Negro Masonry received further attention at the hands of a Special Committee, whose report, after declaring that their position on the question has been misunderstood, and that their whole desire is to promote the good and harmony of the Craft, proceeds to recommend the repeal of the second and third resolutions of 1898. The Grand Lodge of Washington feels very sore over the unfraternal treatment which it received from some who, instead of whispering good counsels in the ear of their erring Brother, went after him with a club. We trust that those Jurisdictions which issued edicts of non-intercourse against the Grand Lodge of Washington will accept its later action in the spirit in which it is offered, and let the incident be closed.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the joint production of M.W. Brothers Upton and Reed. The former, in an able and exhaustive document of 130 pages, deals with the subject of Negro Masonry, answering critically all the objections which have been urged to its recognition. It is impossible, with the space at our disposal, to even summarize it in a way which would convey any adequate idea of its

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scope. Suffice it to say, that after a careful perusal of the report, the opinion we expressed last year still holds good, viz., that conceding the premise that Washington is an independent Grand Lodge, its right to recognize, within its own territory, and for itself, whomsoever it chooses is undeniable, and if it sees fit to sanction the establishment of a second Grand Lodge, or of half a dozen Grand Lodges, within the State, it is purely the concern of the Grand Lodge of Washington. As to the advisability of it—*C'est un autre chose.*

The remainder of the Report, by M.W. Brother Reed, is mainly a review of the action taken in the same matter by various Grand Lodges throughout the United States.

One hundred Lodges; 4,949 members—a gain of 316.

M.W. William M. Seaman, Grand Master.

M.W. Thos. M. Reed, Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA.

35th Annual Communication.

Martinsburg.

15th November, 1899.

This volume, which is larger than those that preceded it, is very tastefully gotten up. It contains nearly 600 pages, and the portraits of M.W. Neil Robinson, the present Grand Master; of M.W. Geo. W. Atkinson, Past Grand Master and present Grand Secretary, and of R.W. John McConihay, give it additional interest.

During the year eleven Special Communications were held at divers times and places, mainly to lay corner-stones and to dedicate Lodge Halls.

The Address of the Grand Master is a record-breaker, so far as length is concerned. It covers sixty pages of the Proceedings, and occupied two hours and twenty minutes in its delivery. Whether this fact is mentioned as a matter for congratulation or the reverse is an open question.

The grammatical construction of the Address is rather involved and the Grand Master's metaphors are somewhat mixed. "Time," we are again informed, "waits for no man." "It ever goes on and falters not." "Time, like the ever-flowing river, rushes onwards towards the restless sea, bear-

ing us on the bosom of its swift current to the ocean that hath no shores, leaving other generations to follow after us with their hopes and expectations, freighted on ships as frail as ours, and to sail down the same turbulent stream to an unknown port on the same boundless ocean of time."

We can appreciate the difficulty of finding an "unknown port" on a "boundless ocean" that "hath no shores."

The Grand Master chronicled the death of their well-beloved Brother, Past Grand Master A. M. Evans, and announces that a "Lodge of Sorrow" would be held to commemorate his many virtues. Four Lodges were instituted; a number of dispensations were granted and several refused, and dispensations for three new Lodges were issued.

Twenty-four decisions are recorded, some of which seem very peculiar. We copy a few:

1. That the stationed officers named in the charter of a lodge and installed into office at the institution of the lodge, must serve in said offices for at least one Masonic year, although a by-law was adopted by the lodge fixing the time for holding its annual election but one month or more after its institution.

14. That when the by-laws of a lodge specify the day of the week, the date of the month, and the hour of the day when it shall hold its communications, it must strictly conform to the requirements of the by-laws and not attempt more work than could be finished before 12 o'clock midnight, for any degrees conferred, or business transacted by the lodge after that hour, would be on another day than that specified in its by-laws, and would be illegally done, except it was by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master.

15. That it is violation of section 29 of the Laws and Regulations for any lodge working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to entertain the petition of a profane for the mysteries of Masonry whose place of residence is nearer to another lodge, whether such lodge is located in this or a sister jurisdiction, previous to having procured a waiver of jurisdiction.

18. That a profane not following the requirements of the Catholic faith, and who does not attend the Catholic Church confessional, or any of the church services, if otherwise qualified, can be made a Mason.

19. That a profane minus the thumb on the left hand, but whose thumb on the right hand is forked, almost amounting to two thumbs, is physically disqualified for the mysteries of masonry.

21. That while the Grand Master in person may by the exercise of one of his prerogatives make a Mason at sight, yet he cannot without violating the Constitutions of Masonry and the edicts of this Grand Lodge grant dispensations to delegate his authority to another person

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to confer the degrees on a candidate in any other manner than the prescribed form, and in conformity with section 35 of the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Lodge.

Nos. 1, 14, 15, and 18 were marked "disapproved" by the Committee on Jurisprudence. No. 18, the Committee say, is unnecessary, and we agree with them. This appears to be an attempt to set up yet another new qualification for admission into the Institution. The question that called for ruling No. 21 was evidently from someone who thought that a man who could strike an average in the way of thumbs was "sound in all his limbs and members and perfect as a man ought to be."

The Grand Master withdrew recognition from the Grand Lodge of Washington, and revoked the commission of his Representative near that Grand Lodge. In this connection he perpetrates the following paragraph, which may be sense, although we can make nothing of it.

"Brethren, I have presented this matter in all its details, not only to show you that there are men in the Fraternity who would force their particular ideas upon the Craft, even if it would disrupt it, but rather that you may see what a single lodge could do which through the interposition of friendship and brotherly love hath again brought pence not only to the brethren of the State of Washington, but to the entire Masonic Fraternity of the whole country."

The Grand Master is a firm believer in the "perfect youth" doctrine. He believes that if the thin edge of the wedge (i. e., a man with both thumbs on one hand) is allowed to enter, it will open the way to the entrance of applicants with cork legs and hands. The Grand Master will be surprised to learn that in at least one Jurisdiction in the United States this is even now the case.

"Rotation in office" is strongly and rightly deprecated. The practice of electing a Brother Senior Warden simply because he has filled the Junior Warden's chair, or of electing a Brother Worshipful Master because he has filled that of Senior Warden, cannot be too strongly condemned. It is a common practice in other Jurisdictions than West Virginia, and is to be discouraged wherever met with.

There has evidently been trouble in West Virginia in connection with the use of the black ball. The Grand Master thinks that too often the black ball is used from motives of personal spite, and that in this way good Brethren are

kept from affiliating. He considers this a most serious thing—in fact, the word he uses is “terrible.” He says:

“It is a similar ordeal as was the drawing of the death doomed ban used in cruel by-gone days, long buried in the misty past and obliterated by the radiant light of civilization and the enlightened influences of intellectual, moral, and Masonic education.”

The Grand Master recommends that Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star be allowed to meet in Lodge-rooms; is of opinion that it is wrong to exempt clergymen from paying dues; states that he visited several of the Lodges and derived much pleasure from the visits, and concludes with a few reflections upon the aims and objects of Masonry.

A rather novel request was made by Mrs. Ophelia A. Trippett, (widow of the late C. J. Trippett, formerly Grand Chaplain of West Virginia), who wrote asking that Grand Lodge appropriate a sufficient sum of money to erect a “respectable and appropriate” monument over the grave of her late husband. The matter was referred to the Committee on Finance, who evidently gave it the six months’ hoist.

A resolution was introduced looking to the abolition of the Past Master’s Degree, which, according to law, was laid over until next year for final action.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is a review of the Proceedings of sixty-four other Grand Lodges, (we thank thee, Brother Inglesby, for teaching us that word), and is from the pen of our esteemed Brother, M.W. Geo. W. Atkinson.

In his review of Georgia, he quotes a decision of the Grand Master of that Jurisdiction, to the effect that an Englishman living in America for several years but not naturalized, is not eligible (in Georgia) for the degrees, and says that he (Brother Atkinson) considers it good law. We fancy that Brother Atkinson will find that he is about the only one who does. It is universally admitted that citizenship has nothing to do with eligibility for the degrees.

Commenting upon the fact that M.W. Brother Locke, of Maine, was thanked by his Grand Lodge for the able manner in which he had performed his duties, Brother Atkinson says that he does not consider that any person should be complimented because he has done what was expected of

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him. He says, "If he falls short of these requirements, he certainly falls short of duty. If he fails to do his duty, he should be censured. If, on the other hand, he does his full duty, he is entitled to no praise." To give point to these extraordinary remarks, Brother Atkinson goes on to say, "Brother Locke did his full duty, and I as a Mason compliment him for so acting." Verily, consistency, thou art a jewel.

The Quarterly Meetings of some Grand Lodges are a source of offence to Brother Atkinson. Probably now that the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, (to which he particularly refers) together with the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have learnt his opinion on the subject, they will hasten to change their procedure, especially as, in Brother Atkinson's classical language, his time is "too limited to chew over what has been done at these four meetings of the M.W. Grand Lodge."

Our Brother sees no good in the "Past Master's Degree," and so far we agree with him. He states that there are but three degrees in Blue Masonry, evidently being unacquainted with the fact that in Scotland the "Mark" degree is given in Blue Lodges.

He believes that the result of a ballot cannot be discussed; thinks that liquor-sellers should be prevented from joining the Institution, and wonders why the Grand Lodge of England does not "peremptorily demand of its three Lodges" in Quebec, "to surrender their charters, and thus force these recalcitrant bodies to either submit to Quebec's authority, or quit business altogether." Probably the reason is that the Grand Lodge of England is not that kind of Grand Lodge. While it offers no objection to the Lodges of its obedience joining the local Grand Lodge if they see fit, it very properly refuses to coerce them. It is to be presumed that the Grand Lodge of England, the oldest as well as the largest in the world, has a very fair idea of what is right and proper under the circumstances.

British Columbia for 1899 receives our learned Brother's careful attention. He is pleased with much of M.W. Brother Wilson's Address, the only weak point in which is, he says, the opinion expressed regarding Negro Masonry. He states that Prince Hall Lodge "received its charter from England two years after the White Grand Lodge of that State (Massa-

chusetts) was chartered." When, and from whom, did the "White Grand Lodge" receive its charter? Which "White Grand Lodge" does Brother Atkinson mean, for there were two in Massachusetts? He states that contrary to M.W. Brother Wilson's assertion, the Grand Lodge of Washington did break or over-ride one of the landmarks by its action in 1898. Which? The only landmark we can find that has any bearing on the subject, (we quote from the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New York, a Grand Lodge which Brother Atkinson particularly admires), is, we think, directly in support of the position of the Grand Lodge of Washington. It is:

"That the right of a lodge to judge for itself who shall be admitted to initiation or affiliation therein is inherent and indefeasible, not subject to dispensation of any kind or from any source whatever."

The attention of those who are attempting to set up new qualifications for membership is also respectfully called to the same landmark.

Chartered Lodges, 115; Lodges under dispensation, 4; membership, 6,567, a gain of 316.

M.W. Neil Robinson, Grand Master.

M.W. Geo. W. Atkinson, Grand Secretary.

WISCONSIN.

55th Annual Communication.

Milwaukee.

13th June, 1899.

The Grand Master read an Address of thirteen pages in length, giving a detailed account of his official acts. He states that 225 of their Brethren were called away during the year, among the more prominent being R.W. Brothers David C. Fulton, a Past Deputy Grand Master, and William T. Palmer, a Past Grand Secretary.

Thirty-six dispensations were issued during the year, of which thirteen, or more than one-third, were to confer degrees out of time. Two were to allow Lodges to ballot for candidates, and if elected, to confer the degrees on them in less time than that specified in the Constitution. Eight applications for similar dispensations were refused.

The Grand Master was glad to be able to renew fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru; declined to authorize the formation of an "Army Lodge"; and very properly recognizes the ability of the writer of their Reports on Foreign Correspondence, M.W. Brother Aldro Jenks. He thinks, and we heartily agree with him, that the services of Brother Jenks are worth at least \$200.00 *per annum*, and recommends that that amount be appropriated.

The matter of "Negro Masonry" is laid before Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master is able to assure his Brethren that the Order of the Eastern Star has had no deleterious effect upon Masonry in his Jurisdiction. He says that,

"In Lodge-rooms, where Chapters of the Eastern Star have been instituted, the cobwebs have vanished from the ceiling and the spittoons from the floor," which is certainly a consummation devoutly to be wished for. He says further, "I love the Eastern Star because it enables my wife to share with me in the work and glories of the Order!" Well, so do the Rebecca Lodges of Oddfellows, or the Good Templars.

Eight decisions are recorded, the second and seventh of which are as follows:

2. The Grand Lodge of a sister Grand Jurisdiction arrested the charter of one of its subordinate lodges, and suspended a number of its members. Can the Masons so suspended, while under such sentence, visit Wisconsin lodges, or enjoy any of the rights and privileges of Masons in this jurisdiction?

Answer—No.

7. A sentence of suspension or expulsion from a lodge suspends or expels from all Masonic bodies; and the members of a lodge, chapter, commandery or consistory who, knowingly, permit a Mason, while under such sentence, to sit in their meetings, or converse upon the subject of Masonry with him, are guilty of un-Masonic conduct, and can be disciplined by their respective lodges.

This certainly seems a very extraordinary ruling, and we are glad to observe that the Grand Lodge declined to sustain it. What authority the Grand Master has in Wisconsin over the Chapter, Commandery or Consistory, is not apparent to the writer, but we fail to see why he did not make his ruling apply to Lodges of Oddfellows or Knights of Pythias while he was about it.

Just before the meeting of Grand Lodge a terrible tornado visited the North-western part of the State, causing

the loss of many lives and much property. Among those killed was R.W. Brother J. B. Hicks, Past Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Lodge adopted resolutions expressing sympathy with his family, and also appointed a committee to ascertain as quickly as possible what relief might be needed by the Brethren in the afflicted district.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Jurisprudence, it was decided that a Mason made in the Island of Cuba should not be recognized in Wisconsin; neither should a dimit from a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Gran Dieta, that body not being recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

A Special Committee dealt with the subject of Negro Masonry. Their report is short but to the point. The Committee

"wish to call attention more forcibly to this attempt to make an innovation in the body of Masonry by introducing a race or color line. There is not now, nor has there ever been, any law to prevent any free-born man of any color or race from applying to any regular lodge, and, if elected, being initiated."

What, then, of the law of Kentucky, which says that,

"A candidate for initiation must be of the age of twenty-one years, and a free-born white man."

In other Southern Jurisdictions, whether or not there is a definite law on the subject, we are told that a Negro Mason, hailing from a regular Lodge, would be excluded by the "right of objection," while a Negro applying for initiation would certainly be rejected. Where, then, originates the attempt to introduce the color line into Masonry? The usual resolutions declaring non-intercourse with Washington were passed, but a note by the Grand Master informs us that in consequence of the re-consideration of its action, relations with that Jurisdiction "continue uninterrupted."

The Committee appointed earlier in the session reported that information from the district wrecked by the tornado was very meagre, but enough had been learned to show that several Brethren and one Lodge were in need of assistance. The Grand Lodge voted an immediate donation of \$500.00 for the relief of the sufferers. It was also resolved that the Lodges be invited to contribute to the Relief Fund. Further appropriations for charitable purposes were made to the extent of \$200.00.

It appears that a Mr. Marling, who is minus his left arm, is very desirous of being made a Mason, but the Committee on Jurisprudence report that "an ancient landmark prohibits his ever being made a Mason, and that there is no Masonic power that can change that landmark." We quite agree with the Committee, but think we read not so long ago that in one Jurisdiction at least in the United States the loss might be compensated for by a suitable artificial member. Even in Tennessee a man with his left hand off at the wrist is eligible. We do not, however, remember that any American Grand Lodge has called either of these Jurisdictions to time because of this violation of one of the landmarks, from which we infer that the American doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge Jurisdiction—the ground on which many Grand Lodges severed relations with Washington—is of more importance than a mere landmark.

M.W. Brother Aldro Jenks presents his second Report on Foreign Correspondence, which fully sustains the reputation acquired by the first. British Columbia for 1898 receives a courteous notice, although Brother Jenks, in common with every other writer of these Reports, dissents from the ruling of M.W. Brother McLaren, *re* residential qualification.

With most of his expressed opinions we are heartily in accord. He objects to the suspension of a Brother for non-payment of dues, believing that exclusion from Lodge privileges should be the penalty. In this Jurisdiction, (British Columbia) a Brother may be suspended for non-payment of dues, but the suspension is only from Lodge privileges, and may be terminated at any time by the payment of arrears. Brother Jenks is strongly opposed to the law of California in the matter of non-affiliates, which, after six months from the date of his dimit, converts the non-affiliate into a "Masonic outlaw."

He is, however, a strong supporter of legislation against liquor-sellers, which is one point on which we feel obliged to disagree.

He corrects the Grand Secretary of Idaho for stating that that Grand Lodge (Idaho) was opened by the Senior Grand Warden in "Ample Form." A little further on, however, we find a review of Ontario, in which he several times speaks of "the Grand Lodge of Toronto." Surely

Brother Jenks knows that the "Grand Lodge of Ontario" was a clandestine body, which was dissolved a couple of years ago. As for the "Grand Lodge of Toronto," we never heard of it before.

He notes a gradual decrease in the membership in New Brunswick, and "wonders why." We imagine, Brother Jenks, it is largely because the English-speaking population of that Province is being gradually crowded out by the French-Canadian element.

We regret that lack of space prevents us from noticing further this excellent Report, which we have read with much pleasure and profit.

Lodges, 237; membership, 17,421, a gain of 195.

M.W. Chas. E. Whelan, Grand Master.

R.W. John W. Laflin, Grand Secretary.

WYOMING.

25th Annual Communication.

Cheyenne.

13th September, 1899.

The Grand Master, M.W. Brother J. M. Rumsey (whose portrait faces the title page of the volume of Proceedings), delivered an eminently practical, business-like Address. He rejoices that as a result of the late "unpleasantness" they are now, as a people, on better terms with other nations, "especially with that great maritime power with whom it is our interest on commercial, religious, and natural grounds, to be on terms of the most cordial amity." We heartily reciprocate the Grand Master's sentiments and trust that the friendly relations now existing between the two countries may never be disturbed.

The Grand Lodge membership appears to be unbroken by death, although several members of the subordinate Lodges passed away. For what appeared to him to be good reasons the Grand Master granted two dispensations to confer degrees out of time. He felt constrained to refuse several, with regret, but from a sense of duty.

The Grand Master was the author of a letter addressed to the different Grand Masters throughout the United States,

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suggesting the advisability of forming a Supreme Lodge. The reception it met with was not excessively cordial, the chief objection being "that such a proposal is a menace to the independence and sovereignty of the Grand Lodge in each State." If that were the only objection, we imagine that it might be overcome, State sovereignty being a comparatively modern feature of the Institution.

Negro Masonry comes in for a share of his notice. He believes the action of Washington to have been subversive of the best interests of the Institution, and referred the matter to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, for special report.

He received an invitation to lay the corner-stone of the new Federal building at Cheyenne, but business engagements interfering, the duty was performed by proxy. He urges the necessity of adopting a uniform work; refers to Grand Lodge the proposal of Tennessee to exchange Representatives, and also a communication from the Grand Lodge of Virginia requesting a contribution in aid of the Washington Memorial Observances. He makes several recommendations, viz., that members suspended should be charged with dues during the period of suspension; that the Grand Lodge return to the Grand Representative system; that a fund be started for the erection of a Masonic Home, and that the Grand Lodge change the work as at present used for that prepared by one of their Past Grand Masters. The first and second suggestions were rejected, the third and fourth being referred to Special Committees to report next year.

The Grand Secretary, R.W. Brother Kuykendall, submitted a succinct report showing the work of the Lodges for the year. The membership shows a net gain of 59, being now 1,044. He is one of the few Grand Secretaries who manage to get all the returns and dues in on time. During the year, at the request of the Grand Master, he prepared a report on Negro Masonry, which was sent to all the Lodges, and which appears in the Report on Foreign Correspondence.

A Special Committee was appointed to deal with the question of Negro Masonry, as brought up by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington at its sessions of 1898 and 1899. The Committee is of the opinion, evidently, that the latest action of that Grand Lodge is not sincere, but, like a good many others, has some doubts as to what the Grand

Lodge of Washington really does mean, as seems apparent from the following resolution which concludes the report:

"Resolved: That the Grand Lodge of Washington be and is hereby fraternally requested to declare explicitly whether any man or body of men, whether white or black, claiming to be Masons, held and declared to be clandestine everywhere in this country or by any Grand Lodge are or will be permitted to visit or affiliate with any of its constituent lodges, or be recognized by the membership thereof as regular Masons."

An excellent half-tone portrait of M.W. Brother F. E. Addons, Grand Master (1876-77), is inserted about the middle of the volume.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was prepared by R.W. Brother Kuykendall under the shadow of a great affliction. His wife, his faithful companion for over forty years, was called away from his side, and henceforth he must travel life's pathway alone. We offer our bereaved Brother our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

A special report on Negro Masonry prefaces his regular report. His opinion coincides with that expressed by nearly all other American writers; namely, that Negro Masonry is clandestine and cannot be recognized. He makes the following statement:

"Race and color has (sic) nothing to do with it from a legal standpoint, except that no man, whether white or black, can become and be recognized as a lawful Mason unless made such in a just and lawfully constituted lodge of Masons, duly dispensated or chartered by authority of a Grand Lodge of competent jurisdiction. There never has been a time when a free-born citizen, whether white or black, could not petition any such duly constituted lodge and be received into membership therein if otherwise qualified, and there is no disposition in any quarter to make any change in that respect. The descendants of Shem, Ham and Japeth, if free-born and otherwise qualified under the laws of the Grand Lodge, are alike proper Masonic material. Men of each race are lawful Masons, and colored men are members of regular lodges in this country."

But this is just what is being done in some sections of the country. Brother Thos. M. Matthews, Sr., of Texas, in his Report for this year comes out squarely and states that negroes, because of their color, are debarred from being made Masons in that State. Not only that, but he asserts that if a regularly made Negro Mason were to attempt to visit a Lodge in Texas, he would be denied the privilege—because of his color.

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Brother Kuykendall is evidently not satisfied with the *status* of Mexican Masonry; is not a believer in the *right* of a visiting Brother to demand a sight of the charter, and is evidently in favor of stringent legislation against non-affiliates.

We regret that British Columbia finds no place in this excellent review; probably it did not get to him on time.

M.W. E. P. Bowman, Grand Master.

R.W. William L. Kuykendall, Grand Secretary.

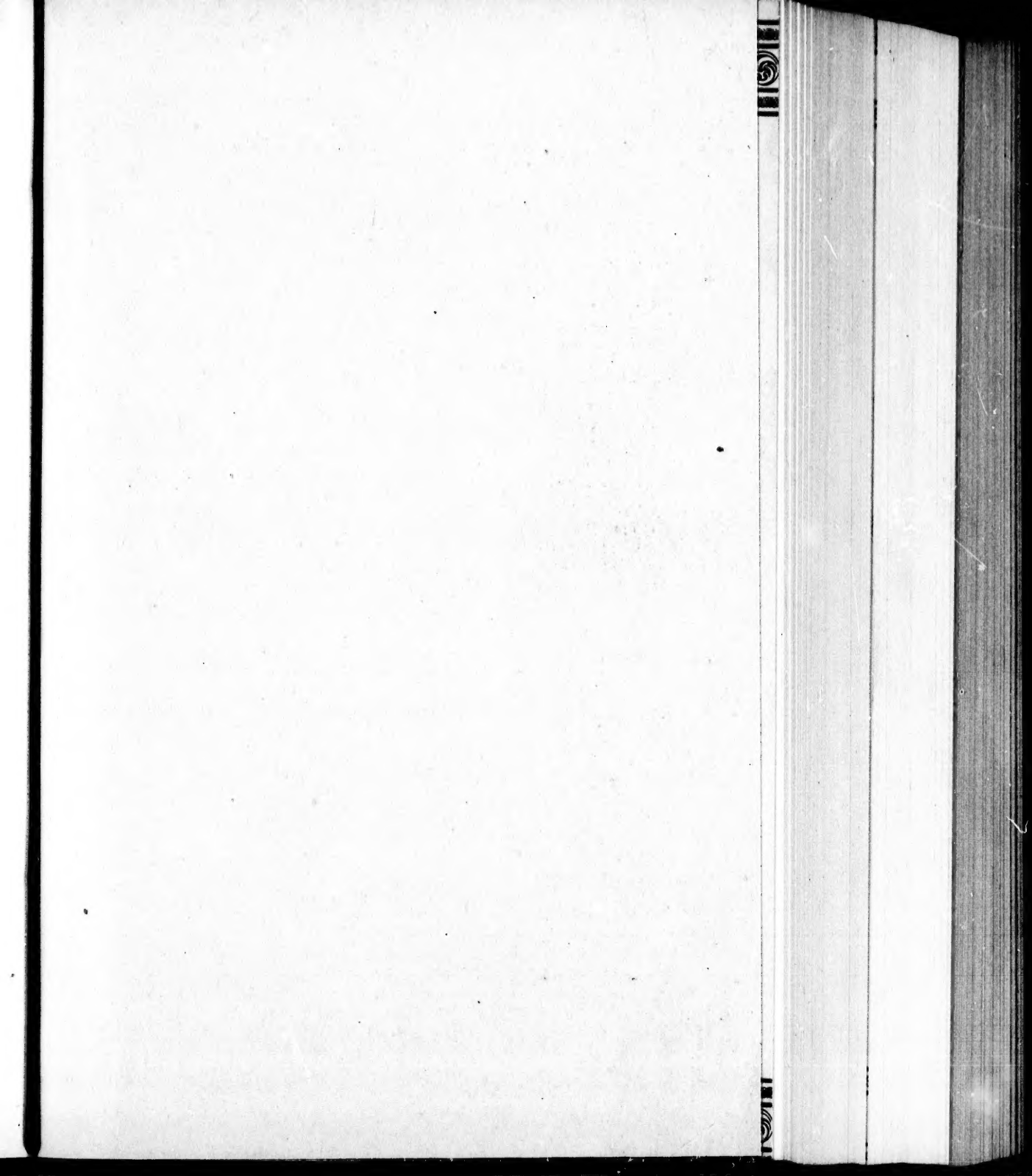
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Address of Grand Officers.

M.:W.: HARRY H. WATSON, - GRAND MASTER
VANCOUVER, B. C.

V.:W.: W. J. QUINLAN, - - GRAND SECRETARY
NELSON, B. C.

W.: W. A. DEWOLF SMITH,
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE
NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NOTICE.

The Thirtieth Annual Communication will be held in the
Masonic Temple, in the City of Nelson, commencing on
Thursday, 20th day of June, 1901.

